KNOWLEDGE FOR CHILDREN IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Publications catalogue 2017-2018
UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office is pleased to present the first edition of the Knowledge for Children in East Asia and the Pacific Publications Catalogue. The catalogue features publications providing knowledge on the situation of children produced by the 14 Country Offices and their partners in the region, and by the Regional Office, in 2017 and 2018.

It includes knowledge products that focus on the three UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Headlines, which embody its contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in full alignment with UNICEF’s 2018–2021 Strategic Plan goals. The Regional Headlines are:

1. Early moments matter
2. Children grow in safe and sustainable environments
3. Adolescents’ potential unleashed

To learn more about UNICEF EAP Regional Headlines Results Areas, please visit: https://www.unicef.org/eap/regional-headlines

The catalogue features 62 publications (research, evaluation, review, assessment and other reports), which are available online. The entry for each publication includes a short description, as well as information about the authors and contributors, publication date, links to where it can be accessed and contact details for obtaining additional information.

Knowledge and evidence are essential to informing the development, implementation and monitoring of relevant policies and programmes for the realization of children’s rights. We sincerely hope that you will find the publications listed in this catalogue a helpful resource for evidence-based decision making and programming.

Karin Hulshof
Regional Director
UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific
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CAMBODIA

WATER QUALITY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN IN CAMBODIA—HIGH CONTAMINATION AT COLLECTION AND CONSUMPTION LEVEL

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background

In Cambodia, children aged under 5 years continue to suffer high rates of death and disability from malnutrition. Annually, approximately 4,500 deaths can be attributed to malnutrition (Moench-Pfanner et al., 2016) – nearly one third of the overall child mortality rate in Cambodia. The adverse impact of malnutrition constitutes an economic burden that costs Cambodia an estimated 145 million to 266 million USD annually (0.9 per cent – 1.7% of GDP; Moench-Pfanner et al., 2016). Stunting, considered the most appropriate multi-sectorial indicator of malnutrition, accounts for 45% of projected economic losses (Moench-Pfanner et al., 2016). Undernutrition is both a major cause and an effect in the cycle of poverty triggered by inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene and feeding practices (Chase and Ngure, 2016).

In Cambodia, improving access to safe drinking water (65% to 83% depending on the season) and sanitation (46%), along with good hygiene practices such as hand washing (79.8%), and reducing open defecation (44%) and unsafe management of child stools (30%; National Institute of Statistics, Directorate General for Health, and ICF International, 2015) are vital to decreasing preventable young child deaths – especially those associated with infectious diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, which contribute to most under-5 child deaths in Cambodia (Ministry of Health, 2017).

Purpose

It is important to look closer at the bacteriological quality of water to understand its potential role as a pathway of contamination, and act upon it. The main aim of the project is to offer feedback to the Cambodian Government on the national health system and health interventions by monitoring children's health and development.

Potential use

The study results will be used to inform the Cambodian Government about the national health system and health interventions by better monitoring children's health and development.

Authors/Contributors: Independent consultant, UMR-204 Nutripass, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France and UNICEF Cambodia

Date of publication: October 2018


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ADOLESCENT-LED REVIEW OF THE MAGIC CLASSROOM PROJECT AND COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS IN CAMBODIA

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
In Cambodia, children still face many challenges in the early stages of life due to risks that stem from a lack of early childhood education, and from health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene issues. Two UNICEF-supported activities that address these difficulties are the Magic Classroom Project and the Community Preschool Playgrounds. Magic Classroom, in partnership with the NGO Sipar, provides educational sessions on subjects including health and nutrition as well as water, sanitation and hygiene, including hand washing with soap, safe drinking water and proper use of latrines. Community Preschool Playgrounds are built to provide local children with the benefit of play and accompanying brain development in an environment that is free of health hazards including animal waste.

Purpose
The purpose of this formative, internal review was three-fold: 1) to look at the Magic Classroom and playground activities to see if they are meeting their intended goals and objectives; 2) to document lessons learned and good practices for engaging adolescent participation in an evaluation activity; and 3) to encourage the full participation of local youth in the activities from which they are meant to benefit.

Potential use
The results of this study will be used to inform future programming and to provide a basis on which to build future child, adolescent and youth participation.
CHILDREN IN CHINA: AN ATLAS OF SOCIAL INDICATORS 2018

Publication type: Data report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background

An Atlas of Social Indicators of Children in China 2018 brings together the latest official data (2017) on the main indicators of child survival, development and protection, and presents them visually, aiming to highlight the remarkable achievements made, opportunities and remaining challenges in improving the survival, development and protection of all children in China, equitably.

The majority of the data used is sourced from official surveys and statistical publications. Data are disaggregated by sex, age, urban-rural, and province where possible, subject to availability and purpose of analysis.

Purpose

This, the third edition of the 2018 Atlas, seeks a higher level of disaggregation and data interpretation, and better alignment with government plans and policies that have significant implications for children. It also aims to link data to the SDG targets and indicators, providing a basis for understanding implementation, progress and major challenges faced in achieving the SDGs in China.

The 2018 Atlas does not cover the protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect – an important right enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and SDGs. With the expected arrival of new data, we look forward to providing a status update on this critical dimension in late 2019.

Potential use

The Atlas provides a comprehensive statistical reference for government agencies, development partners, frontline workers and other stakeholders to better understand the current status of children’s development in China. It lays a strong foundation for further analysis, learning and evidence-based action. It can be used to identify the most vulnerable children and their families, and to understand and address their challenges – through government priorities, targeted funding, and increased access to and quality of services for children and their families.

Authors/Contributors:
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Date of publication: 2018

Web link:

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ASSOCIATION OF ANTENATAL MICRONUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTATION WITH ADOLESCENT INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL WESTERN CHINA: 14-YEAR FOLLOW-UP FROM A RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL

Publication type: Research report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background

Evidence indicates that the first 1,000 days of life is the most critical period as this is when nutritional deficiencies have a significant and often irreversible adverse impact on child survival and growth, affecting the ability to learn in school and to be productive in later life. Sufficient iron supply and intake during pregnancy and in children under 2 years of age is an important component of nutrition interventions during the critical 1,000 days. China does not have routine antenatal care to provide iron/multiple micronutrient supplementation for pregnant women. Iron deficiency among pregnant women, especially those in areas experiencing poverty, constitutes a public health policy gap.

Purpose

The effects of micronutrient supplementation during pregnancy on adolescent intellectual development were unknown. This research aimed to assess whether micronutrient supplementation during pregnancy has a long-term effect on adolescent intellectual development, and to assess evidence to promote timely initiation and adequate dosage of supplements consumed.

Potential use

The findings of this research demonstrate the long-term benefits of multiple micronutrient supplementation during pregnancy on adolescent development compared with folic acid with or without iron, with the largest benefits gained by initiating supplementation in the first trimester (<12 weeks’ gestation) and receiving enough supplements (≥180 capsules).

The findings provide evidence for policy-makers in China to comprehensively consider routine antenatal care recommendations related to multiple micronutrient supplementation during pregnancy in vulnerable sub-populations. The results will be used in advocacy on China’s policy on iron supplementation/multiple micronutrient supplementation.

Authors/Contributors:
Zhonghai Zhu, Yue Cheng, Lingxia Zeng, Mohamed Elhoumed, Guobin He, Wenhao Li, Min Zhang, Wenjing Li, Danyang Li, Sintayehu Tsegaye, Suying Chang, Hong Yan, Emma Yu Wang, Duolao Wang, Shabbar Jaffar, and Michael J. Dibley

Date of publication: July 2018

Web link: https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2686727

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WHAT COULD COGNITIVE CAPITAL MEAN FOR CHINA’S CHILDREN?

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
China has seen unprecedented growth in recent decades and today boasts the world’s second-largest economy. Nevertheless, like many other countries it now faces the challenge of maintaining growth targets and resolving entrenched inequality, with children significantly affected, along with growing numbers of elderly dependants. UNICEF wanted to make the case that prioritizing investment in children was an essential policy priority to enable China to meet growth targets based on an increasingly productive workforce, in the context of high levels of labour dependency. Key to this is the cognitive capital accumulated by investing in human brain development. Investing in brain development upholds child rights and builds cognitive capital, which could contribute to nation-building and future economic growth.

Purpose
One reason UNICEF undertook this review was that the concept of cognitive capital had not yet been defined in a way that was useful in China. The UNICEF team therefore wanted to relate the concept to policies directing support and services for children in the country. UNICEF focused on early childhood because as growth slows, and after decades of investment, the Government is increasingly interested in knowing where the biggest returns on public investment come from.

The review also aimed to bring together wide-ranging scientific evidence to support the benefits of such early positive interventions.

Potential use
The review was triggered by the Chinese Government’s need to address the challenges it faces as it moves from middle- to high-income country status, including inequity, economic slowdown and an ageing population. UNICEF researchers reviewed evidence on the benefits of early childhood interventions and the emerging concept of cognitive capital to suggest ways in which the Government could boost the contribution that every person makes to the economy and the well-being of the country. The findings, and the proposals made for the way forward, have influenced the Government’s evolving approach to children’s development and how this links to China’s mid-term vision for social and economic development.

Authors/Contributors:
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Date of publication: May 2017


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EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION PROGRAMME IN DPR KOREA

★ Rated as Highly Satisfactory by UNICEF Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System

Publication type: Evaluation report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early Moments Matter

Background
Implementation of the UNICEF-supported Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition Programme (CMAM) started in DPR Korea in 2008, with small coverage at community level. To address the coverage issue, nutrition service delivery was lifted to county hospital level. Between 2015 and 2017 the programme responded to several natural disasters and expanded rapidly to cover 90 per cent of the country. UNEG norms and standards and all OECD-DAC evaluation criteria were applied, with a specific focus on identifying case coverage gaps and declining service quality associated with this rapid expansion.

Purpose
After several years of implementation and scale-up of CMAM, an evaluation was commissioned. Its objectives were to review the countrywide scale-up of CMAM and progress to date in achieving programme objectives including access to and utilization of CMAM services by caregivers, and to provide a comprehensive analysis as a basis for planning the new UNICEF Country Programme 2017–2021. The evaluation was undertaken from October to November 2017. The theory of change for the revised programme strategy indicates promoting the ‘1,000 days approach’, improving cross-sectoral links in nine Convergence Counties, ensuring life-saving services and removing bottlenecks and barriers to access.

Potential use
The context-adapted programme strategy was validated. The CMAM programme has been relevant to children’s needs and responded to emergency-related spikes of malnutrition. The highly effective programme averted an estimated 7,581 under-5 children’s deaths in the period 2015–2016 and provided appropriate treatment for over 180,000 acutely malnourished children. The programme expansion was accompanied by a remarkable consistency of practice, but efficiency gains can be realised by calibrating treatment protocols.
2017 DPR KOREA MICS. GENERATING EVIDENCE TO DELIVER FOR CHILDREN. SURVEY FINDINGS REPORT

Publication type: Survey report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
The 2017 DPR Korea Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out as one of the first MICS round 6 surveys worldwide by the DPR Korea Central Bureau of Statistics, with technical assistance and quality assurance support from UNICEF. Globally, all MICS questionnaires were developed in partnership with WHO/WFP/UN Sister Agencies and academia at the global level, and extensively field tested. From August to October 2017 a total of 8,500 sampled households all over the country were interviewed using standard questionnaires for the MICS. The 2017 Survey Findings Report was launched eight years after the last MICS (2009). It fills important knowledge gaps on the situation of children and women in the country and makes a crucial contribution to data availability for equity-focused humanitarian assistance.

Purpose
The 2017 MICS aimed to provide high-quality data for assessing the situation of children, adolescents, women and households in DPRK, and to furnish data needed for monitoring progress towards national goals and national and global SDG indicators. MICS results generate internationally comparable data for the assessment of progress made and indicate where additional effort is needed.

Potential use
MICS results will support the Government, UNICEF and Partners in identifying programming needs and priorities, and enable targeting of service delivery to those in greatest need. It will also enable Government reporting on its Convention on the Rights of the Child commitments and tracking of progress towards the SDGs, including the SDG voluntary national reviews. Through MICS, United Nations humanitarian partners will be afforded a baseline for the implementation and monitoring of the UN DPRK Strategic Framework 2017–2021.
INDONESIA

AIR POLLUTION: A THREAT TO CHILDREN’S HEALTH IN INDONESIA

Publication type: Brief

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
Burning and fuel combustion are the main sources of many air pollutants harmful to human health, especially for children. Around 4,000 Indonesian children die every year of air pollution-related causes.

Purpose
Written together with Vital Strategies, a global public health organization, this evidence brief discusses air pollution in Indonesia emanating from peatland fires, coal-fired electric power generation, open burning and biomass burning for cooking and other sources.

Potential use
The brief provides evidence on how air pollution affects children’s health and key strategies needed to mitigate air pollution.

Authors/Contributors: Vital Strategies and UNICEF Indonesia

Date of publication: 2018


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IMPROVING MATERNAL AND NEW BORN HEALTH SERVICES IN EASTERN INDONESIA: FINDINGS FROM AN EXTERNAL REVIEW

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
Provinces in Eastern Indonesia face particular challenges in accessing quality maternal and newborn health services related to their relative remoteness, economic underdevelopment and health system-related barriers. Since 2010, UNICEF and the Government of Indonesia, supported by USAID, have undertaken a series of initiatives under the Maternal and Child Health and Integrated Malaria Control in Eastern Indonesia (MiP - ACHIEVE) programme. The aim was to improve access to quality maternal and newborn care services in the four eastern provinces of North Maluku, Maluku, Papua and West Papua.

Purpose
This report documents three inter-related initiatives that collectively aimed to reduce preventable deaths in this region over a 5-year period: the Integrated Malaria and Maternal and Child Health programme; the Cluster Islands Approach; and the Perinatology Mentorship initiative. With regard to common challenges to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in Eastern Indonesia, the report discusses geographic access barriers, inequitable distribution of health personnel, decentralization-related implementation gaps, infectious diseases including malaria, and basic resource limitations.

Potential use
This report highlights the experiences, achievements, challenges and future plans of these programmes.
NUTRITION CAPACITY ASSESSMENT IN INDONESIA

Publication type: Assessment report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
Despite dramatic economic growth in Indonesia, malnutrition remains a significant problem and there are limited signs that it is in decline. Indonesia suffers from high levels of undernutrition and growing rates of obesity – the double burden of malnutrition. The country needs to urgently address the unfinished agenda of undernutrition and emerging issues such as obesity and non-communicable diseases.

Purpose
The purpose of the assessment was to examine the institutional arrangements and capacity of province and district government authorities to legislate, plan and manage the nutrition programme. It focused on stunting (to reflect the current political drive to reduce childhood stunting), and the nutrition services provided through the health sector, which currently has the main responsibility for delivering the nutrition programme.

Potential use
The report provided a set of recommendations on four capacity areas: policies, plans and frameworks; resources and infrastructure; coordination and partnerships; and evidence-based decision-making. Based on the results and findings of this assessment, Indonesia is currently developing a human resource for health restructuring plan.

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Date of publication: 2018

Web link: https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/reports/nutrition-capacity-assessment-indonesia

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CHILDREN IN INDONESIA: AN ANALYSIS OF POVERTY, MOBILITY AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL DEPRIVATION

Best of UNICEF Research 2018

Publication type: Analysis report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter

Background
In adopting the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, governments committed to ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, including for children, by 2030. SDG 1 explicitly recognizes that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and obliges countries to track indicators that capture both monetary and non-financial aspects of poverty among children, women and men. It also emphasizes the important role of national social protection systems and floors, which guarantee income security to all throughout the life cycle, as a key instrument to help address poverty and vulnerability.

Purpose
Published together with the National Bureau of Statistics, this report offers an in-depth assessment of child poverty in Indonesia. It provides estimates of monetary child poverty against national and international poverty lines as well as analyses of multidimensional measures of child well-being. This research found that 13.3 per cent of children live below the national poverty line (approximately 10,000 Rupiah per day) and that 57 per cent live below twice the poverty line.

Potential use
The report calls for a strengthened social protection system to address child poverty and simulates the cost and impact of child grants.

Authors/Contributors: Development Pathways and UNICEF Indonesia

Date of publication: October 2017


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SDG BASELINE REPORT ON CHILDREN IN INDONESIA AT NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Publication type: Data report and 34 provincial briefs

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background

Indonesia’s 84 million children represent one third of the country’s total population. How children are faring – in terms of their health and nutrition, their welfare and education, and the environment in which they grow up – is a key indicator of Indonesia’s progress towards achieving the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Disaggregated SDG data on children is key to informing child-focused planning and monitoring of SDGs by government.

Purpose

The SDG Baseline Report on Children and the Provincial Briefs provide a disaggregated 2015 baseline assessment for priority child-focused SDG indicators, and aim to support evidence-based planning and reporting by government at national and sub-national level. The data is where possible disaggregated by sex, age, province, socio-economic status and place of residence, to shed light on particularly vulnerable groups. It highlights how more than one in seven children live in a household below the national poverty line and 57 per cent grow up in families living on less than twice the national poverty line. It also highlights the fact that there is currently no reliable national data on either child labour or violence against children.

The SDG Provincial briefs were developed to support subnational planning and advocacy for children in particular. They synthesize 2015 baseline data on children through simple data visualizations. Each provincial brief has a scorecard that illustrates how a province’s SDG progress compares to other provinces.

Potential use

Indonesia’s Government is highly committed to the localization of SDGs. Leveraging this opportunity, UNICEF Indonesia worked with the Government to develop these reports, bringing a child focus to SDG planning, monitoring and reporting. These reports have been shared widely by the Government at international, national and subnational level, and have helped inform, amongst others, the development of the subnational SDG action plan.

Authors/Contributors: Ministry of National Development Planning and UNICEF Indonesia

Date of publication: July 2017


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LAO PDR

SDGS AND CHILDREN – MEASURING PROGRESS ON CHILD WELLBEING IN LAO PDR

Publication type: Data analysis report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background

In 2018, to further deepen the understanding of the situation of children, the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis report ‘SDGs and Children - Measuring Progress on Child Wellbeing in Lao PDR’ was produced by the Centre for Development Policy Research, Ministry of Planning and Investment and UNICEF Country Office, with technical support from the Social Policy Research Institute.

Purpose

This report uses the Lao Social Indicator Survey II dataset released in June 2018 to analyse the unmet needs and rights of children aged under 18 in Lao PDR. One of the objectives of this study is to support the Government with baseline information that enables progress towards Target 1.2 of SDG 1, to be tracked over the next 15 years, with the aim of reducing child poverty by at least half.

Potential use

This analysis will result in more convergent inter-sectoral planning and coordination, while ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of budget spending for social sectors to achieve results at scale, focusing on the most deprived children. It will help decision makers to make timely and strategic investments in children and young people that will maximise the cognitive and human capital of Lao PDR’s ‘generation 2030’, who will drive the development of a country that aims to graduate from the list of Least Developed Countries and achieve the SDGs.
LAO SOCIAL INDICATOR SURVEY II, 2017

Publication type: Survey report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
In 2017, the Lao Social Indicator Survey II was carried out by the Lao Statistics Bureau in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Education and Sport, as part of the Global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Programme. Technical support was provided by UNICEF, with government funding and financial support from UNICEF and UNFPA, the EU, the Government of Luxembourg, USAID, Swiss Development Cooperation, WFP, UNDP, WHO and JICA. USAID provided technical support for data collection and analysis of anaemia.

Purpose
The Survey provides up-to-date information that will assist the selection of data on key social development indicators, to support monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It also seeks to establish a baseline for national development plans and priorities, including the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, provide provincial core social development indicators data, and to support the data for graduation from Least Developed Country status. It will also help to produce a range of population and social indicators that are statistically sound and based on internationally comparable methodology and best practices. Lastly, it will support reinforcing coordination mechanisms that support and strengthen social statistics in Lao PDR, and its findings can be used to formulate and advocate for policies, programmes and monitoring.

Potential use
LSIS II provides up-to-date information needed for the selection of data on key social development indicators to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, especially key inputs for the ongoing Voluntary National Report on SDG, 2018.
MALAYSIA

CHILDREN WITHOUT - A STUDY OF URBAN CHILD POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION IN LOW-COST FLATS IN KUALA LUMPUR

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
UNICEF Malaysia conducted this study to understand and analyze the dynamics of child poverty and deprivation in urban poor communities. The study revealed hidden pockets of poverty. In particular, it highlights the impact of poverty and deprivation on malnourishment that needs to be addressed. The study was the first attempt in Malaysia to apply the multidimensional poverty index on an urban child poverty study for a deep dive to reveal hidden pockets. Despite the country’s poverty rate of less than 1 per cent, the study found a data blind spot in the existing survey tools, and revealed an almost 100 per cent rate of relative poverty amongst the children living in low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur. Data was collected through interviews with 966 heads of household and 2,142 children from 17 different locations throughout Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya.

Purpose
The study was conceptualized and conducted by UNICEF to discover the hidden pockets of poverty in Malaysia using multidimensional poverty index research methodology to measure income, living standards, education, nutrition and safety. A mapping exercise by UNICEF specialists indicated that relative poverty exists in urban poor communities, and a large number of this group live in low-cost flats.

Potential use
The study was launched February 26, 2018, which was three months before the 2018 Malaysian general election. The study was timed to feed into the mid-term review of the 11th Malaysia Plan in support of the Government’s commitment to human-centered development and the eradication of poverty. The findings were shared with the public and legislature, received both national and international media attention, and influenced the establishment of a National Child Well-being Roadmap by the Deputy Prime Minister. At the first National Budget Meeting for 2019, Government called to introduce additional aid of 120 Malaysian ringgit for every child below 18, and children with disabilities will be exempt from age limits.
CHILD MARRIAGE IN MALAYSIA – A WORKING PAPER

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
Child marriage has been under-researched in Malaysia and other parts of Southeast Asia. Realizing the lack of data on this topic, UNICEF conducted a study on child marriage in 2016–2017. The results were shared in July 2018 as a working paper that outlined drivers of child marriage and provided a basis for recommendations for policy changes to end child marriage.

Purpose
UNICEF Malaysia commissioned this study to build on earlier attempts to examine child marriage within Malaysia’s Muslim, non-Muslim, indigenous and refugee communities. Child marriage has been poorly researched in Malaysia and other parts of Southeast Asia; it is thus imperative that more is done to understand and address the factors that allow child marriage to continue in this region, and specifically in Malaysia, in the 21st century. For UNICEF, ending child marriage by making institutional improvements to gender equality is a global priority. One of the five strategic goals of its Gender Action Plan 2018–2021 is to ensure the protection of children from violence and exploitation, including child marriage. The goal of child rights advocates is to ensure that no child faces a future with limited hope and opportunity as a result of early marriage.

Potential use
The child marriage study was shared with the Government, following the escalated interest around the issue. The Deputy Prime Minister and other government authorities have cited the study, strengthening partnerships on this issue. In October 2018, the Prime Minister issued a directive to all state authorities to set the legal minimum marriage age at 18 for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. While some states agreed to amend the minimum age of marriage for females from 16 to 18 in the Islamic family laws that govern Muslims, exceptions remain in allowing marriage below 18 for both genders. UNICEF is continuing to work with partners to change social norms and reform the law to work towards setting the legal minimum age at 18 across all jurisdictions with no exceptions, using evidence of the study as a basis. A roadmap on child marriage is also being developed as an outcome of the study and advocacy conducted by UNICEF and other actors in this area of work.
INTRODUCING AND COSTING A CHILD GRANT IN MALAYSIA: A STEP FORWARD FOR SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE AND ECONOMICALLY PRODUCTIVE MALAYSIA

Publication type: Rapid exercise report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
This rapid exercise illustrates the affordability of introducing a Child Grant in Malaysia based on the inclusive life-cycle approach. The study uses a range of cost scenarios to build evidence and concrete figures to allow policy makers to better assess opportunities and potential challenges while considering benefit parameters.

Purpose
The period of greatest vulnerability for the survival and development of the child is from pre-birth to 5 years, and within that the period as a foetus and the first two years. One consideration in the selection of benefits therefore relates to the observation that an impact on child malnutrition in particular would require an intervention to set in before birth. This leads to including a benefit during pregnancy. The purpose would be to help ensure that mothers have resources to improve their own nutrition, to cover pregnancy-related health or social expenditure, or to afford some rest during pregnancy, post-partum and breastfeeding by outsourcing some of their work burden. The fact that the first two years are the most sensitive in turn leads to the proposal of a grant for the first 1,000 days (between the start of pregnancy and the child’s second birthday). Extending the age cut-off makes a lot of sense as an effective targeting approach. The study costs the scenario of extending coverage to 5 years of age. Using a lifecycle approach in line with the Social Protection Floor covering two groups – pregnant women and children – will also support the policy objective of consolidating the fragmented programmes that characterize the current system.

Potential use
This rapid exercise illustrates the affordability of introducing a Child Grant in Malaysia that is based on the inclusive lifecycle approach. The study uses a range of cost scenarios to build evidence and concrete figures to allow policy makers to better assess opportunities and potential challenges while considering the benefit parameters (benefit level, indexation, age cut-off). It is hoped that this study will initiate a broader discussion with stakeholders to arrive at policy recommendations to better respond to such opportunities and challenges.

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Date of publication: August 2017

Web link: https://www.unicef.org/malaysia/media/466/file/Working%20paper%20on%20child%20grant.pdf

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MONGOLIA’S AIR POLLUTION CRISIS: A CALL TO ACTION TO PROTECT CHILDREN’S HEALTH

Publication type: Discussion paper

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background

During the long cold season, air pollution levels in Ulaanbaatar are among the highest in the world. Exposure to air pollution of such a magnitude has very serious health consequences, particularly for children, including pneumonia and bronchitis and chronic respiratory conditions. It has also been shown to have serious effects on unborn children, including lower birth weight, preterm birth and stillbirth, and evidence points to potential impacts on brain and cognitive development, especially during pregnancy and the early years of life.

Unfortunately, there are indications that many children who are affected by air pollution in Ulaanbaatar do not receive the services they require. Greater effort is needed to prevent and treat the health impacts of air pollution, and to ensure that services reach all children. Without immediate action to reduce air pollution, the direct and indirect financial cost of treating air pollution attributable diseases will be an estimated MNT 46.6 billion for the period 2017–2025.

Purpose

In line with UNICEF’s global messages on air pollution and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 24), it is essential that stakeholders not only invest in measures to reduce air pollution levels, but also to reduce children’s exposure, treat children with air pollution-related diseases, and to reduce their vulnerability to air pollution. Potential interventions include roll-out of the Pneumococcal Vaccine, improving indoor air quality in public facilities for children, public guidance on using good quality face masks and a sustained public outreach campaign. These actions would likely provide immediate, short-term relief to some of the most vulnerable and severely affected children.

Potential use

This publication aims to help strengthen national policy and programmes on air pollution mitigation and protection measures.
MINING-RELATED IN-MIGRATION AND THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN IN MONGOLIA

Publication type: Research findings and recommendations

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
Mining is expected to play a central role in the economic and social development of Mongolia through the exploitation of its vast mineral resources. While mining can have positive impacts on communities, its negative impacts include resettlement of communities, changes to livelihoods and culture, deteriorating health and safety due to increased traffic, dust and noise, and additional pressures on social resources and social services due to increases in local populations. Children are usually the most vulnerable to the negative social and environmental impacts of mining, including in-migration, during their developing years, and they are less likely than adults to benefit from compensation and mitigation measures.

Purpose
The main objectives and outcomes for the Mongolia country research on mining, in-migration and child rights were:

- Research to better understand and generate evidence on the impacts of in-migration on children specifically.
- Provision of guidance to companies on how to manage in-migration impacts in policies and processes.
- Support to integrate a child rights lens into corporate policies and due diligence.
- Support to strengthen companies’ operational planning and community development initiatives regarding in-migration and children.

Potential use
This report provides a platform for continued engagement with both the private sector and the Government, and for broader awareness raising with key industry stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities for children emerging from mining, including implementing a Community Development Agreement by companies in local communities.
NUTRITION STATUS OF THE POPULATION OF MONGOLIA

Publication type: Survey report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background

A timely update of the nutrition situation in Mongolia was needed to inform policy and programme strategies to address the unmet nutrition needs of the population. Prior assessments of population nutrition status were conducted in 1992, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2010, with financial and technical support from UNICEF, WHO and World Vision Mongolia. On the basis of these findings, the Government of Mongolia implemented initiatives to reduce the burden of malnutrition. Though these efforts resulted in institutional strengthening and greater intersectoral collaboration to address the multiple determinants of malnutrition in the country, complex challenges remain including the dual burdens of under- and over-nutrition.

Purpose

The aims of the report were to assess the current nutrition status of the Mongolian population, estimate the prevalence of diet- and nutrition-related conditions among specific groups at risk of malnutrition, and identify next steps for improving the overall nutrition situation.

Potential use

The survey results serve as a database to help develop and implement scientifically-proven public health policy, based on the firm statistics and research analysis dedicated to the specific circumstances and needs of the people living in the target area and other regions.
MYANMAR CHILD-CENTRED RISK ASSESSMENT
SECOND EDITION 2017

Publication type: Assessment report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
Disasters are driven by both environmental and human-created hazards and are mediated by the socio-economic characteristics of individual locations. Children and their communities in Myanmar face a wide range of natural hazards, which are compounded by civil conflict and intercommunal tension, specifically in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. The interplay between natural and human-induced hazards exacerbates existing vulnerabilities among women, children and youth, negatively affecting their socio-economic status, physical and mental wellbeing and development, and their ability to access basic social services. The Assessment looks at variables including vulnerability, exposure and hazards, and identifies where children are at greatest risk at township level.

Purpose
The accumulated effects of natural and human-induced hazards in recent years highlight the importance of action to reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods. The Assessment provides a guide for UNICEF staff, Government representatives and the international community to identify high-risk areas and populations to allow for risk-informed programming and to scale up disaster risk reduction and resilience programming. The assessment analysis explicitly places children at the centre of a national risk assessment to understand where they are at greatest risk. The outcome of the analysis is a child-centred risk index ranking the 325 townships of Myanmar compiled using 32 indicators, and a spatial risk assessment that allows intuitive visual comparison of risk across Myanmar.

Potential use
The assessment provides a data resource, a baseline for M&E, and a high-level programming guide. It compiles risk indicators around child exposure, socio-economic vulnerability, capacity, hazards and climate change, to expose gaps and opportunities for assessment. It enables in-depth planning to support UNICEF’s child-centred work and enables risk- and climate-sensitive programming. It enables key stakeholders, ministries and NGO partners to visualize children's risk, and by factoring in exposure and climate change, it produces an overview of how underlying drivers translate into risk.

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Date of publication:
July 2017

Web link:
https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/reports/myanmar-child-centered-risk-assessment-0
(2nd edition, 2017)
https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/reports/myanmar-child-centered-risk-assessment
(1st edition, 2015)

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DISABILITY REPORTS. PALAU, KIRIBATI AND SAMOA


Publication type: Study reports

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
The issue of disability and improving the availability of reliable disability statistics has become more prominent in the Pacific and a subject of discussion at recent high-level meetings. In 2016, Pacific leaders endorsed the 2016–2025 Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and at the 47th Pacific Islands Forum reiterated that disability remains an issue of significance. Goal 5 of the Framework focuses on strengthening disability research, statistics and analysis. Member States of the UN ESCAP also declared 2013–2022 as the “Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities” and adopted the Incheon strategy to ‘Make the Right Real’ for persons with disabilities.

Purpose
The SDG principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ ushered in a new era of inclusive development. Persons with disabilities are often among the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized members of society, with unequal access to health care, education, employment and economic opportunities, and more exposure to social exclusion, economic vulnerability and hardship. This study strengthens understanding of the situation and the needs of persons with disabilities in Kiribati, Palau and Samoa, as well as the policy, service and programmatic attention that is required, particularly for children with disabilities. It also contributes to strengthening the collection, analysis and use of reliable national-level disability data to enable policy formulation, evidence-based decision-making and the efficient and effective use of limited resources.

Potential use
Reliable national-level disability data enables policy formulation, evidence-based decision-making and more efficient and effective use of limited resources. Moreover, reliable disability data can play a pivotal role in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disability programmes.

Authors/Contributors:
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Date of publication:
1. Samoa – 2018
2. Kiribati – 2017
3. Palau – 2017

Web link:

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SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES - REGIONAL AND 14 PACIFIC COUNTRY REPORTS

Publication type: Situation analysis report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
UNICEF Pacific supports 14 Island Countries and Territories, including hundreds of small islands and atolls, stretching across 17.2 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. These countries and territories are home to some 2.4 million people including about 983,000 children. As the 2013–2017 multicounty programme cycle approached its end, UNICEF Pacific conducted a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the situation of women and children in these Countries and Territories.

Purpose
This report aims to present a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the situation of children in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The situation analysis aimed to:

- Improve stakeholder understanding of the current situation of children’s rights in the Pacific, and the causes of shortfalls and inequity, as the basis for developing recommendations for stakeholders to strengthen children's rights.
- Inform the development of UNICEF programming and support national planning and development processes, including influencing policies, strategies, budgets and national laws to contribute towards establishing an enabling environment for children that adheres to human rights principles.
- Contribute to national research on disadvantaged children and leverage UNICEF’s convening power to foster and support knowledge generation with stakeholders.

Potential use
The situation analysis is particularly intended to contribute to the development of programmes and strategies to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of children and women in the whole Pacific region. It strengthens the knowledge base to enable assessment of the contribution of development partners, including UNICEF and the UN, in support of national development goals. It is particularly intended to contribute to the development of programmes and strategies to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of children in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
INTEGRATED CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION SURVEY (ICHNS) 2017

Publication type: Survey report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
The situation analysis of women and children for Republic of Marshall Islands conducted by UNICEF in 2016–2017 revealed lack of up-to-date data on women and children to inform programming. A Demographic and Health Survey was last conducted in 2007 and did not produce estimates of key indicators for women and children (for example, malnutrition indicators on stunting and early childhood development). The last national census was conducted in 2011.

Purpose
The survey was conducted to help close data gaps for women and children on key topics including nutrition, child health, water and sanitation, reproductive health, child development, child protection and education. It examines the prevalence and identifies key determinants of stunting, underweight, overweight and wasting in young children and their caregivers, and establishes the current status of early child development, child functioning and child discipline practices. Specifically, the survey:

- Provides up-to-date information on the situation of children and their caregivers.
- Generates data on progress made, and identifies areas requiring more attention.
- Furnishes data on progress towards internationally agreed goals.
- Collects disaggregated data to identify disparity and enable evidence-based policy-making for social inclusion.
- Generates baseline data for the post-2015 agenda.
- Validates data from other sources and the results of focused interventions.

Potential use
The report enables more effective planning, management and monitoring of programmes for children and determines where revision is needed to address gaps and barriers. It contributed to further guide UNICEF interventions and support to the Government through the Pacific Multi-County Programme 2018–2022. The results have since provided critical information for baselines and monitoring key national and regional development priorities and the SDGs.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PARENTING FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT
EVALUATION REPORT PILOT PROGRAM 2017

Publication type: Evaluation report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background

Papua New Guinea has high levels of malnutrition in children aged under 5, and there are high rates of maltreatment and violence against children. To address this situation, UNICEF Papua New Guinea commissioned the Centre for Child Development and Education to develop, implement and evaluate a parenting programme for rural and remote provinces. It is implemented by the Catholic Church in the Archdioceses of Madang, Western Highlands and Chimbu, and delivered by trained volunteers. The programme was developed through a phase of qualitative research in remote communities, followed by a series of workshops to develop and refine key messages and to provide initial training to facilitators. From February to May 2017, facilitators were trained in the programme and a pilot was run in 10 communities of the Western Highlands and Madang. This report is an evaluation conducted by the Menzies School of Health Research with the participation of staff and students at Divine Word University in Madang.

Purpose

Parenting for Child Development is a group parenting programme developed with the aim of reducing harsh parenting, child maltreatment and violence against children. Its further aims are to build sustainable capacity for volunteer workers to deliver a programme that is consistent with child protection policies and that can be developed as a universal preventive programme alongside and as part of services provided by the church and Government.

Potential use

The publication provides evidence and recommendations for planning, implementation and scale-up of the Parenting for Child Development programme. In the next phase, the pilot findings are being used to revise the programme and to develop an implementation plan for its expansion in participating provinces.

Authors/Contributors:
Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University supported by Divine Word University.

Date of publication:
October 2017

Web link:

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I WANT, I CAN, I WILL – PHOTO STORIES OF YOUNG GIRLS AND HIV IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Publication type: Booklet

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
This Photovoice booklet is a compilation of stories from HIV-positive young women and girls living in Port Moresby. In reading their stories and taking in their images we are each challenged to make a difference in the lives of those most urgently in need of our support. These courageous girls and young women recount far reaching themes that affect adolescent experiences of living with HIV. They each tell of the importance of others – families, friends, HIV counsellors and healthcare workers – who support them to live a meaningful life with HIV.

These visual stories show that with the right support and antiretroviral treatment, adolescent girls living with HIV can not only live but thrive and contribute to community life.

Purpose
Photovoice is a participatory research method based on Freire’s notion of critical consciousness (Friere, 1974 [2006]), which is developed through a process of understanding, reflection and, finally, action (Wang and Burris, 1997, Wang, 2004). Photovoice is used in marginalized communities to critically reflect and promote dialogue and knowledge about particular issues. It is used to empower those usually silenced, to uncover the issues faced by those on the ground, as opposed to the issues imagined by those in authority. The endpoint of this method is social action within and beyond communities, particularly with leaders and policy makers. It is also a means of bringing people together and building supportive communities.

Potential use
The photo booklet is used for advocacy, awareness raising and social mobilization, highlighting the lives of young women with HIV in Papua New Guinea and the positive support they can receive, as well as the stigma and discrimination they face.
SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES

Publication type: Situation analysis report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
Despite economic progress, many children in the Philippines are deprived of basic rights. Filipino children are still facing multiple and deep-rooted deprivations and vulnerabilities that impede their survival, development, protection and participation. Some 31.4 per cent (and a staggering 63.1 per cent of girls and boys in Mindanao), live below the poverty line. One third of children are stunted (short for their age) due to malnutrition, and immunization coverage fell sharply from 89 per cent to 60 per cent between 2013 and 2015. Meanwhile, access to sexual and reproductive health remains low, despite a rise of 230 per cent in newly diagnosed HIV cases among young people at risk. An estimated 2.85 million girls and boys aged 5 to 15 years are also out of school, and 8-in-10 children experience some form of violence, including physical, psychological, sexual or online abuse.

Purpose
The Situation Analysis of Children in the Philippines conducted by UNICEF and the Government of the Philippines and the regional government of Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao presents evidence from research into the situation of over 40 million Filipino children and highlights progress made and gaps in the fulfilment of their rights across the country.

Potential use
This report can inform future policy and programme interventions for boys and girls. It recommends measures to address the barriers that prevent Filipino children from accessing their rights, and their causes.

Authors/Contributors:
Coram International

Date of publication:
October 2018

Web link:

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BUILDING SAFE SPACES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Publication type: Programme guidance

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
This guide consolidates best practices, practical tips and lessons learned from the IOM-UNICEF programme to enhance the network of evacuation centres in Eastern Samar, Philippines, after typhoon Haiyan.

Purpose
The ‘Enhancement of the Network of Evacuation Centres in Eastern Samar, Philippines’ initiative linked preparedness and response – two concepts that are virtually inseparable in the Philippines. By constructing disaster-resilient community evacuation centres, the initiative aimed to equip vulnerable communities with a safe and disaster-resilient evacuation space.

These stories are about people who have gained the confidence to cope with natural disasters by participating in a process that consolidates disaster risk reduction and management activities, resilient public infrastructure projects and camp coordination and camp management practices.

Potential use
Both IOM and UNICEF advocate that national and local governments invest in building life-saving, disaster-resilient infrastructures as a vital and strategic component not only of the disaster mitigation and preparedness framework, but also of the longer-term development agenda for communities.

This publication emphasizes the necessary processes, tips, tools and lessons learnt during project implementation – from initiation and planning, to design and construction, and finally sustainable operation and maintenance of the building. It serves as a practical guide for agencies and organizations that would like to learn from and/or replicate the project’s good practices.

Authors/Contributors: IOM and UNICEF Philippines

Date of publication: August 2018

Web link: https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/476/file/Building%20Safe%20Spaces%20for%20the%20Community.pdf

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THE ASCENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NUTRITION IN THE PHILIPPINES: A COMPENDIUM OF ACTIONS ON NUTRITION

Publication type: Documentation

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
This report documents the best practices, lessons learned and experience of 11 local government units with different profiles. It is intended to encourage other local government units to inspire critical action to reduce high levels of malnutrition in the Philippines.

Purpose
These progressive local government units from the three main island groups, represent provinces, different income class municipalities, two highly urbanized cities and one component city. Their experiences were chronicled by a team of multi-expertise writers to provide a readable set of stories for other local government units.

Potential use
This publication is perceived as only the beginning of capturing the nutrition journey of performing local government units, from which many more lessons and good practices can be learned. Stories of performing local government units in nutrition can continue to stimulate the interest of others, and show that a way to better nutrition is achievable.

Authors/Contributors:
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Date of publication:
July 2018

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CLIMATE LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS FOR CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES

Publication type: Analysis report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
The Philippines ranks among the top five countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts. This report provides the essential baseline information on the climate, environmental and energy issues affecting children in the country and includes recommendations – including the involvement of youth as champions against climate change.

Purpose
In UNICEF’s mid-term review of its Strategic Plan in 2015, climate change emerged as one area to emphasize in the lead-up to the next Strategic Plan (2018–2021). In response, UNICEF Philippines, together with UNICEF Headquarters (Division for Data Research and Policy) prepared this report through a combination of desk research, literature review, and key informant interviews. It provides the essential baseline information on the climate, environmental and energy issues affecting children.

Potential use
This analysis demonstrates the importance of action to address the increasing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation that are undermining the progress being made with children’s rights in the Philippines, including: mainstreaming climate, environment and energy into the policies, strategies and programmes of government departments; advocating for policies that respond to the priorities and specific vulnerabilities of children and youth; working towards more integration and collaboration in climate, environment and energy programming between government departments; investing in training and capacity building in climate, environment and energy; and maximizing the potential of youth as actors and champions against climate change.
A SITUATION ANALYSIS OF ADOLESCENTS IN THAILAND 2015-2016

Publication type: Situation analysis report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
Adolescence is a uniquely important period, when the foundations for adulthood are laid. This critical period of cognitive development and personal awareness can greatly affect an individual’s views of health and personal goal-setting capabilities. Thailand is a rapidly ageing society, putting pressure on ensuring that productivity is enhanced. It is crucial for Thailand’s continued development that young people entering the workforce are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the labour market needs of an economy with continuous growth.

Although the overall birth rate is decreasing in Thailand, the adolescent birth rate is rising. Pregnant adolescents face numerous barriers such as high degree of social stigma and risk from clandestine abortions. Some 70 per cent of all sexually transmitted HIV infections occur between 15 and 24 years, and new infections are rising among young people from key populations, especially young men who have sex with men.

While access to basic education has increased over recent decades, unequal access to qualified education persists, particularly for disadvantaged children and adolescents. Rigid gender norms contribute to persisting gender inequality, including high rates of violence and low levels of political participation among women, and educational underperformance and high engagement in risky behaviour among male adolescents.

Purpose
The purpose of this report is to shine a spotlight on adolescence. This is the only publication in Thailand that brings together data to look at adolescence comprehensively, identify challenges faced by this population group, and existing policy, service and data gaps.

Potential use
Through this publication, UNICEF makes a case for increased investment in adolescence, and advocates with the Government in particular for educational reform, a national strategy to prevent teenage pregnancy, and an overarching national plan on adolescents.
INVESTING IN FUTURE LEADERS. FORMATIVE EVALUATION OF THE TIMOR-LESTE YOUTH PARLIAMENT PROGRAMME 2010 – 2018

Publication type: Evaluation report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
Timor-Leste Youth Parliament is one of few initiatives for young people with nationwide reach and influence. Since 2010, over 390 children aged between 12 and 17 have taken part in the Youth Parliament during its three cycles, mirroring the Government’s National Parliament by representing all 65 administrative post (sub-municipal) electorates. In 2018, UNICEF partnered with the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports to evaluate the progress and impact of the Youth Parliament as it commenced planning its fourth cycle.

Purpose
To generate knowledge and evidence to inform national development policies and strategic planning; and to guide UNICEF Country Programme Action Plan 2015–2019 (extended till 2020) Outcome 3 – Child Protection and Participation – with the specific objectives:

- Assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact, sustainability, and equity of the Youth Parliament.
- Recommendations on how the Youth Parliament can enhance results for children, and on contents of a standard training/orientation package for the Youth Parliament.
- Document key findings and lessons learned for the local and international communities.
- Strategic guidance for the Government and UNICEF on focus support areas for adolescent/youth participation.
- Identify synergy with other initiatives related to youth and adolescents.

Potential use
The evaluation was intended to address:

- A lack of documentation to inform evidence-based policy actions and share valuable lessons learned with other countries.
- The need for a standard training/orientation package based on lessons learned.
- An opportunity to update the Youth Parliament strategic plan according to current context, including the National Youth Policy (2016) and 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.

Authors/Contributors: Katie Chalk / Chalk It Up

Date of publication: November 2018

Web link: https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/reports/investing-future-leaders

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DOCUMENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN CHURCH RUN, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background

In Timor Leste, there are 1,278 public, church and private schools at the basic education level, the majority of which (85 per cent) are public-run. Latest data show no significant difference between private and public schools for dropouts at the Grade 1 and Basic Education Cycle 1 and 2 levels. However, repetition rates at Cycle 1, 2 and 3 levels in private (including church-run) schools are almost half those of public schools, with the percentage of repeaters at Grade 1 showing a similar trend.

Purpose

To identify examples of good practice in the following areas:

- Teaching and learning.
- School governance.
- Parental and community involvement in a range of public, church and private schools offering either Grade 1-6 (Cycles 1 and 2 of basic education) or Grade 7-9 (Cycle 3) education.

Potential use

The results from the study may be used by the Ministry of Education as a reference for the public education system.
END OF PROJECT REVIEW UNICEF/H & M FOUNDATION ‘ALTERNATIVE PRE-SCHOOLS AND PARENTING EDUCATION PROJECT’

Publication type: Evaluation report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background

‘Alternative Pre-Schools and Parenting Education’ was a UNICEF Timor-Leste project between 2014 and 2017, supported by the H&M Foundation. This project has been integral to UNICEF’s broader strategy for early childhood development in Timor-Leste, responding to the need for holistic care for children at home, in schools and in the community. The project delivered change for children in two intersecting ways:

- Opportunities for children to attend pre-school through alternative community-based models of early learning.
- Opportunities for their parents to learn and discuss essential aspects of their parenting role, from protection and early stimulation to adolescent issues.

Purpose

The review aims to provide insight into the quality and relevance of community-based pre-schools and parenting education to inform the Government of the next steps for refinement and expansion. It identifies the strengths and limitations of different initiatives, models and networks that have emerged from the UNICEF programme.

Potential use

The review conclusions will help to guide further decisions and action by UNICEF, partner agencies and the Government of Timor-Leste as the next phase of strategy and planning on early childhood development commences.
BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT
THE INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2017–2021
OF UNICEF VIET NAM

Publication type: Assessment report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
Despite significant recent improvement in a range of health and social indicators in Viet Nam, children, particularly those aged 0 to 8, remain exposed to multiple deprivations in health, nutrition, education and protection, and inequities persist between girls and boys, rural and urban and different ethnic groups. This situation is attributed to supply and demand factors, including the lack of multi-sectorial coordination, in delivering early childhood development services to children and caregivers.

UNICEF Viet Nam’s call for greater integration and synergy across sectors to support integrated programming for children during their very early years has been realized in the Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Programme 2017–2021. Simultaneously, UNICEF Viet Nam’s country programme cycle 2017–2021 addresses the removal of sectoral bottlenecks through strategic interventions. The programme is implemented in 27 selected communes in three projected provinces, with a view to generating further evidence and policy options to scale up IECD nationally.

Purpose
Before planned interventions were implemented, a baseline assessment was conducted to:

- Establish a qualitative and quantitative baseline of IECD programme status.
- Establish an operational framework for the IECD programme.
- Compute benchmark indicators based on the Programme Theory of Change.
- Suggest a draft framework for programme monitoring and evaluation.

Potential use
The findings of this Baseline Assessment will inform a scoping paper and form the platform for a summative evaluation of the IECD Programme by its end. The IECD Baseline Assessment will propose a draft Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the IECD Programme.

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Date of publication: December 2018


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NATIONAL REVIEW: VIET NAM’S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WITH A CHILD FOCUS

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
The 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were developed and agreed to assist countries to identify targets that address their sustainable development issues. The Sustainable Development Agenda has 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators to monitor the implementation of goals covering the economic, social and environmental dimensions of a country. Children are directly or indirectly referenced in 12 of the 17 SDGs, 38 of the 169 targets and 50 of the 232 indicators. Viet Nam’s SDGs are the localized version of the SDGs that suits the context of the country, with 17 goals that are similar to those of the SDGs, and 115 targets. Children are also a significant focus of the Viet Nam SDGs. They are mentioned in 12 of the 17 Goals and in 37 of the 115 targets.

Purpose
The purpose of this report is to review each of the child-focused targets of the Viet Nam SDGs and reflect current status against the set targets, to provide inputs to Viet Nam’s National Voluntary Review of the SDGs and the first National Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is due for submission to the National Assembly in early 2019.

This report: compares and contrasts the targets of the SDGs and Viet Nam SDGs to identify differences between the policy goals and child-related gaps in Viet Nam; identifies policy gaps related to the Viet Nam SDGs; evaluates success in achieving Viet Nam SDG targets focused on children and detects shortcomings; and makes recommendations to promote the implementation of the child-focused Viet Nam SDGs until 2030.

Potential use
Based on analysis and review through a child lens, this report provides recommendations to promote the implementation of the child-focused Viet Nam SDGs, through which children’s rights are realized, until 2030.

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Date of publication: September 2018

Web link: https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/reports/national-review

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EVALUATION OF UNICEF VIET NAM
RURAL SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAMME (RHSP) 2012–2016

Publication type: Evaluation report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
In recent decades, Viet Nam has made impressive progress in reducing poverty and improving access to public services including water and sanitation. Access to improved water supply and improved sanitation increased from 50% to 94%, and 30% to 67% between 1990 and 2011, respectively. Significant policy actions have been taken around water and sanitation and hygienic toilets. However, poor and ethnic minorities are still deprived of services, and UNICEF has prioritized this area. Viet Nam envisions achieving ‘country-wide open defecation free’ status by 2025, and ‘universal access to safe drinking water’ by 2030 and has concluded a loan agreement with the World Bank for its rural water and sanitation programme in 21 under-developed provinces.

Purpose
The report aims to generate evidence of the success of the Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (2012–2016), and document learning to inform the upcoming UNICEF-GOVN cooperation programme. The objectives included: informing UNICEF of the continuity and direction of future WASH assistance; contributing to regional and global discourse and learning; and mapping any reversal to open defecation.

Potential use
The evaluation is expected to: give an independent view of successes, challenges, gaps and learning; contribute to accountability and learning; and demonstrate the ‘value addition’ of UNICEF assistance to rural water safety and sanitation. It will also inform the continuity of UNICEF-GOVN engagement and the scope and scale of UNICEF WASH assistance 2017–2021 and enable monitoring. The evaluation learning will be shared regionally and globally within UNICEF Regional and Country Offices, to inform future WASH programming.

The evaluation will generate evidence on how far Government-led rural water and sanitation efforts are contributing towards access to clean water and hygienic latrines, offer insights into the efficacy of different approaches and models, and enable them to be adapted to the local context. Public stakeholders could also use the evaluation to re-assess planning and resource allocation decisions.
MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SELECTED PROVINCES AND CITIES IN VIET NAM

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
Mental health has been recognised as an integral part of broader definitions of health but has been under-researched in Viet Nam. According to studies from many countries, the prevalence of mental illness and mental disorders among young people might be higher than in all other age groups. Policy and programming to improve youth mental health in Viet Nam should be based upon solid evidence, requiring systematic capture and synthesis of the findings of diverse studies. A comprehensive review would help to establish firm conclusions about priority areas for action. Importantly, a broad review of literature would indicate directions for future research into mental health problems and their determinants.

Purpose
This study is to provide an overview of the situation and context of the mental health of children and young people in selected provinces and cities, specifically:

- The prevalence of mental health and psychosocial problems, including suicide.
- Factors placing children, adolescents and youth at risk and which factors protect mental health.
- Relevant existing laws and policies in Viet Nam.
- Existing mental health and psychosocial service provisions and programmes for children and youth.

Potential use
The findings of this study will inform recommendations for addressing the challenge of mental ill-health and psychosocial distress amongst children and young people, and feed into existing national programmes, specifically:

- Developing coordinated strategies and policies on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing services for children and youth.
- Developing policies/plans to improve human resources for mental health and psychosocial wellbeing services for children and youth.
- Increasing awareness of the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing needs of children and youth.
- Developing better coordinated services for mental health and psychosocial wellbeing services for children and youth.
VIET NAM. NATIONAL SURVEY ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2016

Publication type: Survey report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Children grow in safe and sustainable environments, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background

Human rights are recognized and protected in the Constitution of 1946, 1959, 1980, 1992 and in particular the Constitution of 2013. The 2010 Law on People with Disabilities strongly confirmed the rights of people with disabilities, while inherent human rights are noted in the law of Viet Nam and the international conventions to which it is a Party, particularly the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This report is based on the results of the 2016 National Survey on People with Disabilities by the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, in coordination with ministries, government agencies, NGOs and international organizations. This survey is included in the National Statistical Survey Program signed by the Prime Minister.

Purpose

The major objective of the survey is to provide data for: evidence-based planning and making policies for people with disabilities; and monitoring and accessing results on implementation of the law, policies on people with disabilities and the Government’s relevant international commitments. These include: implementation of the Law on People with Disabilities 2010; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; implementation of the project to support people with disabilities in the period 2012–2020; the Incheon strategy on people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region 2012–2023; and the Sustainable Development Goals 2016–2030.

Potential use

The survey’s findings inform the development of a new Law on Education by providing evidence to support strong action to make education inclusive for all children, especially those with disabilities. It also highlights the barriers and bottlenecks that continue to deny people and children with disabilities their rights, including discriminatory attitudes and beliefs. The first step in removing such barriers is to bring the Law on Persons with Disabilities into line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Viet Nam ratified in 2015.

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Date of publication: 2018


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PART 2
REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS
ASEAN-UNICEF CONFERENCE ON 21ST CENTURY SKILLS AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Publication type: Conference report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
To ensure continuity of efforts and allow all children to realize their potential during adolescence, strategic investments must be made during the second decade of life. This calls for strengthened and concerted effort by ASEAN in human capital, including supporting adolescents to develop the necessary cognitive skills to become adaptive and agile individuals who are prepared for the future.

Enhancing the competitiveness of human resources by promoting life-long learning, flexible learning pathways, equivalencies and skills development, and regularly using information and communication technologies across age groups is one of the strategic measures put forward by the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025.

In the context of the Generation Unlimited global initiative and the UN Secretary General’s launch of the Youth Strategy, UNICEF recognizes that: 21st century skills are crucial for the future; schools must continue to harness academic and non-academic skills; and alternative opportunities must be provided for adolescents to develop their skills within and outside education systems.

UNICEF and ASEAN stakeholders listened to young innovators and students on how youth participation can strengthen ASEAN-wide approaches.

Purpose
This Conference aimed to obtain recommendations from Member States and related stakeholders on: i) best practices in fostering innovative thinking among ASEAN young people through a participatory approach; ii) how to effectively engage the private sector for future skills development and inclusive investment in human capital development and growth; and iii) addressing challenges in realizing Industry 4.0-ready education systems.

Potential use
To help identify technical support required from governments and private sectors, and to highlight ASEAN young people under 30 who are change makers in their communities, as use-cases for modelling innovative practices.
WHAT ASEAN INTEGRATION COULD MEAN FOR CHILDREN: ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY BLUEPRINTS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON CHILDREN

Publication type: Assessment report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
ASEAN integration means change, which comes with increased opportunities and risks for children. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended that all countries conduct a child rights impact assessment prior to the adoption of new policies at regional and national levels. Child impact assessments such as this study help determine the impact of actions on children and whether they effectively protect and implement the rights that almost all countries guaranteed to children when they ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Sustainable development begins with children, and it will only be achieved if policies and programmes are properly assessed from a child rights perspective.

Purpose
The assessment analyses the risks and opportunities brought about by ASEAN integration, and provides recommendations for policymakers on how to minimize risks and optimize opportunities.

Potential use
The assessment was launched during the ASEAN UNICEF SDGs Symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. The event was attended by 200 high-level government representatives, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations. The ASEAN Secretariat disseminated the assessment to the different bodies of the ASEAN Socio-cultural, Economic and Political security communities.
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES. BASELINE STUDY OF PRIORITY AREAS UNDER THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: A SNAPSHOT AS OF 2016

Publication type: Baseline study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background
In 2016, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children came into force, setting out the commitments of Member States to protect children from violence and respond to the needs of child victims across 12 key priority areas. In order to ensure that the Plan of Action is effectively implemented during its 10-year timeframe (2016-2025), a stock-taking exercise was undertaken to understand where countries are starting from, what is going well, and which areas could be improved.

Purpose
The baseline study provides an overview of existing initiatives by ASEAN Member States in relation to implementing priority areas of the Plan of Action, and provides examples of lessons learned, highlighting initiatives, approaches and services that may be seen as good models. The review also identifies gaps and opportunities under each priority area.

Potential use
This study is an important resource for ASEAN Member States as they implement the Plan of Action at national level and will also support countries reporting on progress under target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
DIVERSION NOT DETENTION: A STUDY ON DIVERSION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
Throughout the East Asia and Pacific region, legislative frameworks are being strengthened in order to protect the rights of children in conflict with the law. However, many provisions of these laws remain unimplemented, while diversion and alternatives to pre- and post-trial detention are not used to their fullest potential. Many alternative measures for children in conflict with the law are at the pilot stage and/or only implemented in a few locations at local level, often using models from outside the region and more developed countries. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has emphasized the need to put mechanisms in place for diversion and/or alternatives to pre- and post-trial detention for children in conflict with the law in almost all reports related to the East Asian and Pacific Island countries.

Purpose
The report aims to address bottlenecks in the implementation of diversion and other alternative measures related to juvenile justice. It assesses the existing policies and practices in 12 countries in East Asia and 14 countries in the Pacific and identifies promising practices as well as areas for improvement.

Potential use
The study is being used to support relevant national and local authorities, juvenile justice and social welfare professionals, and all other stakeholders in their efforts to implement, replicate and scale-up alternative measures to detention, and to harmonize their practices with international juvenile justice standards.
TRANSLATION OF EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Publication type: Article
Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
The 2018 special issue of Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences on implementation research and practice for early childhood development brings together emerging evidence on implementing effective nurturing care programmes, addressing issues of quality and scale. Translating evidence to practice requires addressing the barriers perceived by policy makers, which have been highlighted in the published literature. This article describes how UNICEF and other global partners are addressing these barriers.

Purpose
A growing number of policy makers in low-, middle- and high-income countries have begun to examine the essential needs of young children across the developmental life span and across conventional sectors. This paper highlights the importance of leveraging advocacy efforts and partnerships to take effective interventions to scale. These components require adequate attention along with well-designed Early Childhood Development programmes and policies to ensure children reach their potential.

Potential use
The article underscores the importance of multiple approaches to promote inter-sectoral Early Childhood Development programmes and policies to become sustainable and scalable. Integrated Early Childhood Development policies and programmes that strengthen families and child development require quality evaluation data, advocacy efforts, a coordination mechanism and strong partnerships.

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THE EAST ASIA PACIFIC EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SCALES (EAP-ECDS): IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SYSTEMS-LEVEL MONITORING

Publication type: Tool

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
A growing number of East Asia and Pacific governments wish to explore key evaluation questions to monitor the status of young children and to track the progress of government investments, relating to: measuring child developmental status; data collection systems showing the quality and coverage of interventions; and which strategic public investments impact upon child outcomes. UNICEF, the Asia Pacific Network on Early Childhood and the University of Hong Kong created an assessment to examine child well-being across developmental domains. The tool was designed to provide governments with project-level, targeted impact evaluation. It has been piloted in more than seven countries across the region.

Purpose
While almost all countries follow ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with relevant policies, legislation, services, resources and administrative reform, the full realization of children's rights is far from a reality. Facilitating better realization of these rights requires a consistent monitoring system with clear markers to indicate progress. Stakeholders will make decisions based on the best interests of the child, which is also in line with the principles of the Convention. Early childhood education is an important investment in shaping young children into successful adults. Evidence indicates that children who are nurtured from infancy will change their developmental trajectory, with interventions in early childhood proven to have long-term effects on future social adjustment and economic success.

Potential use
The Scales can be used to understand the status of Early Childhood Development in a given population, compare development outcomes between groups, and to inform evidenced-based decision-making about policies, services and programmes. They can be used to understand the status of child development in a given context and to answer questions such as: What interventions are needed? What interventions improve the quality of early learning and development?
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY CARDS

Publication type: Programme guidance

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background

Income inequality is a growing concern in the East Asia and Pacific region and widening disparities and social inequity negatively affect vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. There are also significant and widening disparities in education between and within countries, in enrolment, retention, progression and learning outcomes, which are associated with socioeconomic status, geographical location, disability, ethnicity, language and gender.

Investing in Early Childhood Development is a powerful tool to reduce inequality, which is associated with the development of skills considered as essential for the changing world. A growing number of governments recognize that education is pivotal to distributing economic development to all sections of society. The social emotional learning (SEL) activity cards translate the emerging body of evidence for non-cognitive skills into practical guidance for preschool classrooms.

Purpose

Fostering non-cognitive skills as early as preschool has both immediate and long-term impact. Studies of social and emotional competencies in kindergarten are associated with satisfaction in Grade 8 and college completion. Preschool programmes with quality SEL activities can teach young children critical self-regulation and social skills that will foster more peaceful communities. UNICEF EAPRO developed The Regional Curriculum Guidelines on Social Emotional Learning to Promote Social Cohesion in the Early Years (3-5), which introduces key SEL concepts and guides on how to reflect these principles in early learning class structure, play-based activities, and approaches to teaching, highlighting 10 competencies aligned to globally accepted competencies.

Potential use

The compendium of activities has been developed or adapted to support Early Childhood educators and caregivers in the region to implement direct SEL skill building for 3-5 year-olds. These activities provide more direct and targeted socio emotional skill development within the Early Years settings, and have been inspired by effective practitioners working directly with children over the years, and rooted in developmental appropriateness. However, these activities will not be effective if used alone; they need to be supported with positive, nurturing and responsive relationships and more enabling, safe and inclusive environments.
SITUATION ANALYSIS OF SDG 4 WITH A GENDER LENS

Publication type: Situation analysis report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background

In 2018, the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative, UNESCO Bangkok and UNICEF EAPRO commissioned an analysis of Sustainable Development Goal 4, applying a gender lens to dissect relevant and available data on boys and girls, men and women.

Purpose

The fact sheets are a first step in demonstrating the use of a gender lens in analysis of SDG4 data, because disaggregated and nested analyses will result in more specific and nuanced recommendations.

Potential use

The analysis provides a more accurate picture of the status of SDG 4 from a gender perspective in the region and will help inform the programming approach of UNICEF and its partners.
SEA-PLM 2019 GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Publication type: Assessment framework

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Early moments matter, Adolescents’ potential unleashed

Background

Global citizenship education (GCED) has emerged as a high priority to address the learning needs of an increasingly globalized world. It builds upon associated fields, including ‘peace education,’ ‘moral’ or ‘social education’, and ‘civics and citizenship education’ to foster shared values to address global issues and forge more peaceful, tolerant and inclusive societies (Global Education First Initiative 2014).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of GCED for promoting sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equity, promotion of peace and non-violence, and appreciation of cultural diversity, and includes it in one of the targets of SDG Goal 4, Quality Education. A commitment to education that reflects these values was reaffirmed in the Asia-Pacific Statement on Education beyond 2015, and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, UNICEF and participating ministries of education have included global citizenship as the third domain in the inaugural Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM).

Purpose

The purpose of this assessment framework is to articulate the basic structure of the global citizenship domain as part of SEA-PLM. It describes the constructs to be measured, outlines the design and content of the measurement instruments and describes how measures generated by those instruments relate to the constructs.

Potential use

The scope of work for SEA-PLM included a desk review of relevant literature to formulate a definition addressing both core ASEAN and universal values related to competencies appropriate for students at the Grade 5 level.

This definition informed the development of the Global Citizenship domain of the SEA-PLM Assessment Framework including content and measurement sub-domains.
BEST PRACTICES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PREVENTING MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV, SYPHILIS AND HEPATITIS B, YINING CITY, CHINA

Publication type: Documentation

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
This best practice report reveals successful interventions rooted in community engagement. The multi-sectoral approach to providing personalized community-based care and support is a critical element for achieving elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B.

Purpose
Documentation of experiences of engaging community health workers in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B is limited for the region. This is because community engagement is hardly documented or shared within or between countries.

Potential use
Human rights, gender equality and community engagement are critical areas for countries moving towards elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B. This publication highlights key strategies, including strong maternal and child health hospital leadership, solid multi-sectoral coordination, and personalized community-based care to fast track progress.

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Date of publication: November 2018


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BEST PRACTICES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PREVENTING MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV, SYPHILIS AND HEPATITIS B, LINXIANG DISTRICT, CHINA

Publication type: Documentation

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
This best practice report demonstrates the importance of engaging community health workers as powerful partners in routine maternal and child health services in timely outreach work, to ensure all women, including the most vulnerable, have access to maternal and child health information, receive antenatal care, including rapid tests for HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B, and to help ensure they follow up and adhere to treatment.

Purpose
Documentation of experiences of engaging community health workers in elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B is limited for the region. This is because promising community engagement practices are hardly documented or shared within or between countries.

Potential use
Human rights, gender equality and community engagement are critical areas for countries moving towards elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B. This publication highlights key strategies on engaging community health workers and peer support groups.

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HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION SERVICES FOR THE URBAN POOR IN EAST ASIA

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
Urbanization, rapid economic growth and persistent or widening inequality are the dominant demographic and social trends in Asia. By 2030, the projected proportion of the population living in urban areas will reach 56 per cent in Southeast Asia, and 72 per cent in East Asia. This presents a major challenge for governments and their civil society partners, who are struggling to adapt vital public services and social protection systems to meet the social consequences of this rapid demographic transition. The modern health sector, which has been traditionally based on a rural model of primary health care, is also endeavouring to adapt governance, financing and service delivery arrangements to meet the needs of these rapidly expanding urban populations.

Purpose
The health programmes tasked with responding to this rapid transition include the national immunization schemes, which have been highly successful in administering rural-based programmes for the prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases. But the increase between 2014 and 2016 of disease outbreaks in major cities in the region, and the emerging evidence of substantial coverage gaps between wealth quintiles in urban areas, raise questions about the effectiveness and equity of immunization schemes in regions experiencing rapid urbanization.

This report looks at how countries are responding to emerging rapid urbanization, and how are they adapting their programme policies and plans to meet the realities of this rapidly changing social context.

Potential use
The report shares existing evidence and analysis to: examine how effectively health systems are responding to rapid urbanization in East Asia and the Pacific; map out policy and service gaps to close; and recommend strategies to reduce inequity of access to health care in urban settings. It clearly articulates the complexity of urban development systems and shows the essential need for public and private sectors to work collaboratively to respond to the rapidly changing social conditions in the region.
REPORT OF THE SIDE EVENT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON ICT FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RESILIENCE

Publication type: Case study

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
In the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, frontier technologies are transforming not only our daily lives but also the planet’s development trajectory. The revolution is driven by innovations in artificial intelligence, automation, blockchain and other cutting-edge technologies. This calls for greater urgency in bridging the staggering digital divide in the Asia Pacific region that is exacerbated when countries at the forefront of the Fourth Industrial Revolution quickly leave behind those that are slow at technology uptake. The Sustainable Development Goals mandate that we must do our best to reduce increasing inequalities and ensure that “no one is left behind” in these times of opportunity and challenge.

An inter-agency side event and joint exhibition during the Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development was organized to advocate for the transformative capabilities of ICT and to explore ways to collaborate and create synergies among UN agencies implementing ICT for development initiatives in Asia and the Pacific.

Purpose
This report showcases participating agencies’ initiatives to collectively strive for e-resilience and societal transformation. In the UNICEF case study presented, the approach taken with RapidPro is based on scaling up an existing innovation, to a supported solution particularly around harnessing real-time data for Indonesia’s largest immunization campaign rolled out nationwide.

Potential use
In order to ensure that the work of UN agencies and partners is effective, synergistic and impactful, reports from forums such as the Interagency Working Group enable discussions on the positive impact of such endeavours, and allow reflection on the achievements made by the ICT community.
ASSOCIATED FACTORS TO THE DOUBLE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION IN MOTHER-CHILD DYADS IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

**Publication type:** Review report

**Contributes to EAP Regional Headline:** Early moments matter

**Background**
A double burden of malnutrition is evident in Pacific Islands nations, where the prevalence of child stunting remains a serious public health concern and the regional prevalence of overweight adults is among the highest in the world. A 2017 national Integrated Child Health and Nutrition Survey conducted in the Marshall Islands confirmed that the double burden of malnutrition was common, with one in four households with a child aged under 5 years having both a stunted child and an overweight or obese mother.

**Purpose**
The review examined key influencing factors of the double burden of malnutrition through the mother-child dyad in households.

**Potential use**
The double burden of malnutrition is a national public health concern in the Marshall Islands, with poorer and vulnerable households at highest risk. Both stunting and overweight may be rooted in the early undernutrition of children experiencing disadvantage, impacting on health and well-being throughout the life course. To address the conditions leading to the double burden of malnutrition, categorical unconditional cash transfers to pregnant women and young children during the first 1,000 days will be implemented in the Marshall Islands.

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**Date of publication:** December 2018


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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON UNDERSTANDING THE DOUBLE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION FOR EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS. BOOK OF ABSTRACTS: OVERWEIGHT AND MICRONUTRIENT MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE IN MONGOLIA: A DUAL BURDEN OF EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
The Mongolian diet is associated with a high intake of proteins, but little dietary diversity, leaving much of the population at risk of micronutrient deficiency. Further, greater consumption of Western-influenced high-energy, nutrient-poor foods has contributed to a growing burden of overweight and obesity.

Purpose
To examine the occurrence of overweight and micronutrient malnutrition among Mongolian children aged under 5 years.

Potential use
Mongolia is facing a double burden of malnutrition, evident by a concurrently high prevalence of overweight and micronutrient deficiency among young children across all regions and socioeconomic groups. The fact that overweight is being established at an early age poses serious public health concerns for the country. Tackling Mongolia’s nutrition challenges requires a lifecycle approach focusing on good prenatal, infant, child, adolescent and adult nutrition to address factors contributing to micronutrient deficiency and excess weight gain in the population. Intersectoral policies aimed at increasing the availability and affordability of nutritious foods while restricting exposure to unhealthy foods, strengthening infant and young child feeding practices, and greater family-focused promotion of healthy eating and physical activity behaviours are necessary to reduce the double burden of malnutrition in Mongolia.

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Date of publication: December 2018


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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON 
UNDERSTANDING THE DOUBLE BURDEN OF 
MALNUTRITION FOR EFFECTIVE 
INTERVENTIONS. BOOK OF ABSTRACTS: THE 
DOUBLE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION IN EAST 
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: AN EMERGING PUBLIC 
HEALTH CONCERN FOR CHILDREN

Publication type: Review report
Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
The East Asia and the Pacific region is undergoing a nutrition transition, with children increasingly exposed to high-fat, high-sugar, high-salt, energy-dense and micronutrient-poor foods that are often low in cost and convenient but also low in nutrient quality. These shifts in dietary patterns, along with low levels of physical activity, have resulted in sharp increases in childhood overweight, while stunting levels remain a public health concern. Between the 2000 and 2016 there was some progress on stunting reduction in Southeast Asia (a 32 per cent decrease in children aged under 5), but a 4 per cent increase in the Pacific. However, during the same period, prevalence of overweight in children aged under 5 years increased by 125 per cent in Southeast Asia and 88 per cent in the Pacific.

Purpose
This is the first analysis of the double burden of malnutrition in eight countries in EAPRO with policy and programmatic recommendations.

Potential use
This paper presents the landscape of the double burden of malnutrition at the community, household and individual level in the East Asia and the Pacific region and action to address the issue.
TRENDS OF DOUBLE BURDEN MALNUTRITION AMONG UNDER FIVE CHILDREN IN MALAYSIA: FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
The double burden of malnutrition among children aged under 5 remains one of the major global nutrition problems. Malnutrition is described as the imbalance of nutrients in the body resulting in measurable adverse effects on body composition, function and clinical outcomes.

Purpose
A secondary data analysis was conducted to explain the trends of malnutrition among children aged under 5 years in Malaysia.

Potential use
In the past decade, there has been an increase in the prevalence of chronic undernutrition and overweight in Malaysia, at the same time as a reduction in the prevalence of acute undernutrition. Therefore, a concerted multi-pronged strategy to address the urgent need to combat the double burden of malnutrition in the country is warranted. Strengthening and mobilization of the key stakeholders in the country via a multi- and trans-sectoral approach to address the issue, especially among children aged under 5, is crucial.

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December 2018

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ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
Progress in reducing undernourishment has slowed tremendously. FAO estimates show that the number of hungry people has barely changed during the past two years, making it increasingly difficult to achieve the SDG 2 Zero Hunger target. The situation is similarly challenging in the nutrition and health areas, where a large majority of countries in the region risk missing the SDG and World Health Assembly targets. These developments in food security and nutrition are at odds with the region’s continuing high level of economic growth.

Purpose
To provide an overview of the food security and nutrition situation in the Asia and the Pacific Region with insight into specific determinants of faltering improvement.

Potential use
This report was developed by four UN agencies coming together for the first time in the Asia-Pacific region to report on progress towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. It is hoped that it will contribute to more informed dialogue and more concerted action by all partners in accelerating progress towards the goal of a healthy and hunger-free Asia and the Pacific region.

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Date of publication: November 2018


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EFFECT OF IODIZED SALT ON ORGANOLEPTIC PROPERTIES OF PROCESSED FOODS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Early moments matter

Background
Despite the global recommendation for fortification of salt with iodine, including salt used in food processing, most salt iodization programmes have focused only on iodization of household salt. Food manufacturers are frequently concerned about the potential instability of iodine and changes in organoleptic properties of their products of iodized salt.

Purpose
This paper provides a comprehensive review of studies conducted to assess the effect of iodized salt on the sensory properties of processed foods and condiments.

Potential use
There is no evidence that the use of iodized salt in the production of processed foods or condiments causes sensory changes to the smell, taste, and visual appeal of the product that will affect consumer acceptability or product quality. Universal salt iodization is widely recognized as the most cost-effective intervention to eliminate iodine deficiency. Taking into account increases in the proportion of dietary salt consumed through processed foods, and declines in salt consumed as household salt, iodized salt should be used in the production of processed foods as a means of assuring optimal iodine nutrition without the risk of affecting the sensory properties of foods.

Authors/Contributors:
UNICEF EAPRO, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Nutrition International, SPRING Accelerator, Department of Global Health, University of Washington, Iodine Global Network

Date of publication: July 2018


Contact person: Jessica Blankenship, Regional Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF EAPRO

Email address: jblankenship@unicef.org
GROWING UP URBAN IN EAST ASIA: A CONVERSATION WITH MAYORS ON MAKING CITIES SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FOR EVERY CHILD

Publication type: Conference report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headline: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background
By 2030, some 30 per cent of children in East Asia – 800 million children – will live in cities. Their lives, and our collective futures, are likely to depend on how well urban environments provide for their development and growth. The report compiles the ideas of mayors, governors and urban planners from 10 cities across East Asia, who gathered at the Surabaya Mayors Meeting to make cities safer and more sustainable for children, between 6 and 8 May 2018.

The report includes details of different city contexts, the themes of the meeting, its main findings and the vision for urban priorities for the region.

Purpose
Child-friendly cities depend on political will and leadership. The urban priority can only be achieved if local and territorial governments are involved at all stages of the decision-making process. The result of the discussion at the Surabaya Mayors Meeting can help participating cities to advance the child-responsive urban development agenda.

Potential use
UNICEF is committed to working directly with the mayors and urban administrators who are the frontline providers of services for children. Mayors from different cities in the region can make use of the ideas proposed during the Surabaya Meeting to make their cities safer and more sustainable for children.
A SNAPSHOT OF WATER AND SANITATION IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. 2017 REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF UNICEF PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

Publication type: Review report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Children grow in a safe and sustainable environment

Background
Basic water and sanitation coverage in the Pacific sub-region is low, and access varies widely. Access to basic drinking water in the home remains a problem, and access to basic water is decreasing. Some 14 countries in the region have lower access to water on premises than the world average. Access to water in the Pacific Sub-Region is much lower than the region as a whole. National sanitation coverage varies from only 19 per cent in Papua New Guinea to 90 per cent in several other countries. Open defecation continues to be a problem, with Solomon Islands (41 per cent) having the highest rate in the sub-region. Children are also highly vulnerable to the WASH-related impacts of climate change.

Purpose
The snapshot provides an overview of the drinking water and sanitation situation in the Pacific, including data from 15 UNICEF programme countries in the sub-region.

Potential use
The review and its data serve to give an overview of water and sanitation in the sub-region and can identify areas for action.

Authors/Contributors:
World Health Organization, JMP and UNICEF

Date of publication:
September 2017

Web link:

Contact person:
Evariste Kouassi-Komlan, Regional Advisor, WASH, UNICEF EAPRO

Email address:
ekouassikomlan@unicef.org
SCOPING STUDY: PREPARING FOR SDG REPORTING OF WASH IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Children grow safe and sustainable environments

Background

WASH in healthcare facilities is covered by SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2, which highlight the need to expand WASH monitoring to non-household settings. The lack of national baseline data for WASH in healthcare facilities in a number of countries limits target setting and progress tracking. A general bottleneck for WASH in healthcare facilities is the lack of evidence of the link between WASH in healthcare facilities and health.

Purpose

The purpose of the scoping study is to strengthen existing national monitoring systems and raise awareness of the situation of WASH in healthcare facilities. Case studies are provided for Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Cambodia.

Potential use

Concrete evidence on WASH may facilitate policy changes and associated monitoring efforts. The need for more evidence for WASH in healthcare facilities was reiterated during country consultations and increasing global evidence would support advocacy efforts. The study also provides recommendations on streamlining and harmonizing national planning and addressing bottlenecks.

Authors/Contributors: UNICEF and World Health Organization

Date of publication: 2017

Web link: https://washdata.org/file/120/download

Contact person: Evariste Kouassi-Komlan, Regional Advisor, WASH, UNICEF EAPRO

Email address: ekoouassikomlan@unicef.org
SCOPING STUDY: PREPARING FOR SDG REPORTING OF WASH IN SCHOOLS IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Publication type: Study report

Contributes to EAP Regional Headlines: Children grow in safe and sustainable environments

Background

WASH in schools is captured in SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2, which highlight the need to expand WASH monitoring to non-household settings, and target 4.a, which includes WASH in school settings. While the 2015 UNICEF publication ‘Advancing WASH in School Monitoring’ reported on water and sanitation coverage for 19 and 20 countries from East Asia and the Pacific, respectively, it found that these data were not suitable for cross-country comparison or collecting accurate regional coverage estimates.

Purpose

The scoping study intends to strengthen existing national monitoring systems. Case studies are provided for Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Cambodia.

Potential use

The scoping study describes core levels within the emerging JMP service ladders, which enable countries at different stages of development to track and compare progress in reducing inequity.

Authors/Contributors: UNICEF and World Health Organization

Date of publication: 2017

Web link: https://washdata.org/file/508/download

Contact person: Evariste Kouassi-Komlan, Regional Advisor, WASH, UNICEF EAPRO

Email address: ekouassikomlan@unicef.org
## ANNEX 1: Country and Regional Publications by Regional Headline Result Areas

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<td>Children grow in safe and sustainable environments</td>
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<td>1. Water quality for young children in Cambodia—High contamination at collection and consumption level</td>
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<td>2. Adolescent-Led Review of the Magic Classroom Project and Community Preschool Playgrounds in Cambodia</td>
<td>1.5: Quality pre-primary and primary education</td>
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<td>3. Children in China: An Atlas of Social Indicators 2018</td>
<td>Relevant to all 6 result areas</td>
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<td>4. Association of Antenatal Micronutrient Supplementation with Adolescent Intellectual Development in Rural Western China: 14-Year Follow-up from a Randomized Clinical Trial</td>
<td>1.2: Preventive and curative nutrition services</td>
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<td>5. What could cognitive capital mean for China’s children?</td>
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<td>6. Evaluation of Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition Programme in DPR Korea</td>
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<td>7. 2017 DPR Korea MICS: Generating evidence to deliver for children. Survey Findings Report.</td>
<td>Relevant to all 6 result areas</td>
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<td><strong>DPRK</strong></td>
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<td>8. Air Pollution: A Threat to Children’s Health in Indonesia</td>
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<td>9. Improving maternal and new born health services in Eastern Indonesia: Findings from an external review</td>
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<td>10. Nutrition Capacity Assessment in Indonesia</td>
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<td>11. Children in Indonesia: An analysis of poverty, mobility and multidimensional deprivation</td>
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<td><strong>INDONESIA</strong></td>
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<td>12. SDG Baseline Report on Children in Indonesia at National and Provincial level</td>
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<td>15. Children Without - A study of urban child poverty and deprivation in low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur</td>
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<td>16. Child Marriage in Malaysia – A working paper</td>
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<td>18. Mongolia’s Air Pollution Crisis: A call to action to protect children’s health</td>
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<td>30. Climate Landscape Analysis for Children in the Philippines</td>
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<td>39. Viet Nam. National Survey on People with Disabilities 2016</td>
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## Regional Office

### ADAP
- **40.** ASEAN-UNICEF Conference Report on 21st Century Skills and Youth Participation
  - **3.5:** Safe space for participation

### Child Protection
- **41.** What ASEAN integration could mean for children: Assessment of the ASEAN Community Blueprints and potential impacts on children
  - **2.6:** Access to justice

- **42.** Ending violence against children in ASEAN member States. Baseline study of priority areas under the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children: A snapshot as of 2016
  - **3.3:** Prevention and protection of violence against children

- **43.** Diversion not detention: A study on diversion and other alternative measures for children in conflict with the law in East Asia and the Pacific
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### Early Childhood Development
- **44.** Translation of evidence to practice to promote early childhood development programs
  - **1.4:** Early Childhood Development

- **45.** The East Asia Pacific Early Childhood Development Scales (EAP-ECDS): Improving Quality of Early Childhood Development through Systems-level monitoring
  - **1.4:** Early Childhood Development

- **46.** Social Emotional Learning (Preschool) Activity Cards
  - **1.4:** Early Childhood Development

### Education
- **47.** Situation analysis of SDG 4 with a gender lens
  - **1.5:** Quality education in and out of school

- **48.** SEA-PLM 2019 Global citizenship assessment framework
  - **1.5:** Quality education in and out of school

### Health
- **49.** Best practices of Community Engagement: Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B, Yining City, China
  - **1.1:** Maternal and Newborn Child Health

- **50.** Best practices of Community Engagement: Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B, Linxiang District, China
  - **1.1:** Maternal and Newborn Child Health

- **51.** Health and Immunization services for the urban poor in East Asia
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<td>53. Associated factors to the double burden of malnutrition in mother-child dyads in the Republic of the Marshall Islands</td>
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<td>56. Trends of Double Burden Malnutrition Among Under Five Children In Malaysia: Findings From A National Landscape Analysis</td>
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<td>57. Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition</td>
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<td>58. Effect of iodized salt on organoleptic properties of processed foods: a systematic review</td>
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<td><strong>SOCIAL POLICY</strong></td>
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<td>59. Growing Up Urban in East Asia: A conversation with Mayors on Making Cities Safe and Sustainable for Every Child</td>
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<td>60. A Snapshot of Drinking Water and Sanitation in East Asia and the Pacific. 2017 Regional Analysis of UNICEF Programme Countries</td>
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<td>61. Scoping Study: Preparing for SDG reporting of WASH in health care facilities in the East Asia and Pacific Region</td>
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<td>62. Scoping Study: Preparing for SDG reporting of WASH in schools in East Asia and the Pacific</td>
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## ANNEX 2: 2016 and 2019 Key Publications

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<td><strong>2016</strong></td>
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<td>3. Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition in the <strong>Philippines</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/441/file/Management%20of%20Severe%20Acute%20Malnutrition%20in%20the%20Philippines.pdf">https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/441/file/Management%20of%20Severe%20Acute%20Malnutrition%20in%20the%20Philippines.pdf</a></td>
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<td>4. Review of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in <strong>Thailand</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.unicef.org/thailand/reports/review-comprehensive-sexuality-education-thailand">Best of UNICEF Research 2018</a></td>
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<td>5 Connect with respect</td>
<td><a href="https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000243252">https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000243252</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The Interaction between Morbidity and Nutritional Status among Children under Five Years Old in <strong>Cambodia</strong>: A Longitudinal Study</td>
<td><a href="https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/11/7/1527">https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/11/7/1527</a></td>
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