

Draft country programme documents  
**Bulgaria, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova,  
Montenegro, Romania and Tajikistan**

**Afshan Khan**  
Regional Director, Europe and Central Asia

UNICEF Executive Board – Informal consultation – 23 June 2022

4 (a) Country programme documents | Reference documents: E/ICEF/2022/P/L.23 to E/ICEF/2022/P/L.29



# Country Programmes 2023-2027

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Romania

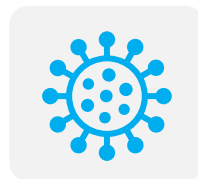
# Common characteristics



Income level



Economic growth



Impacts of COVID-19



Ukraine emergency





# Issues for children

- At-risk-of-poverty rates among children remain higher



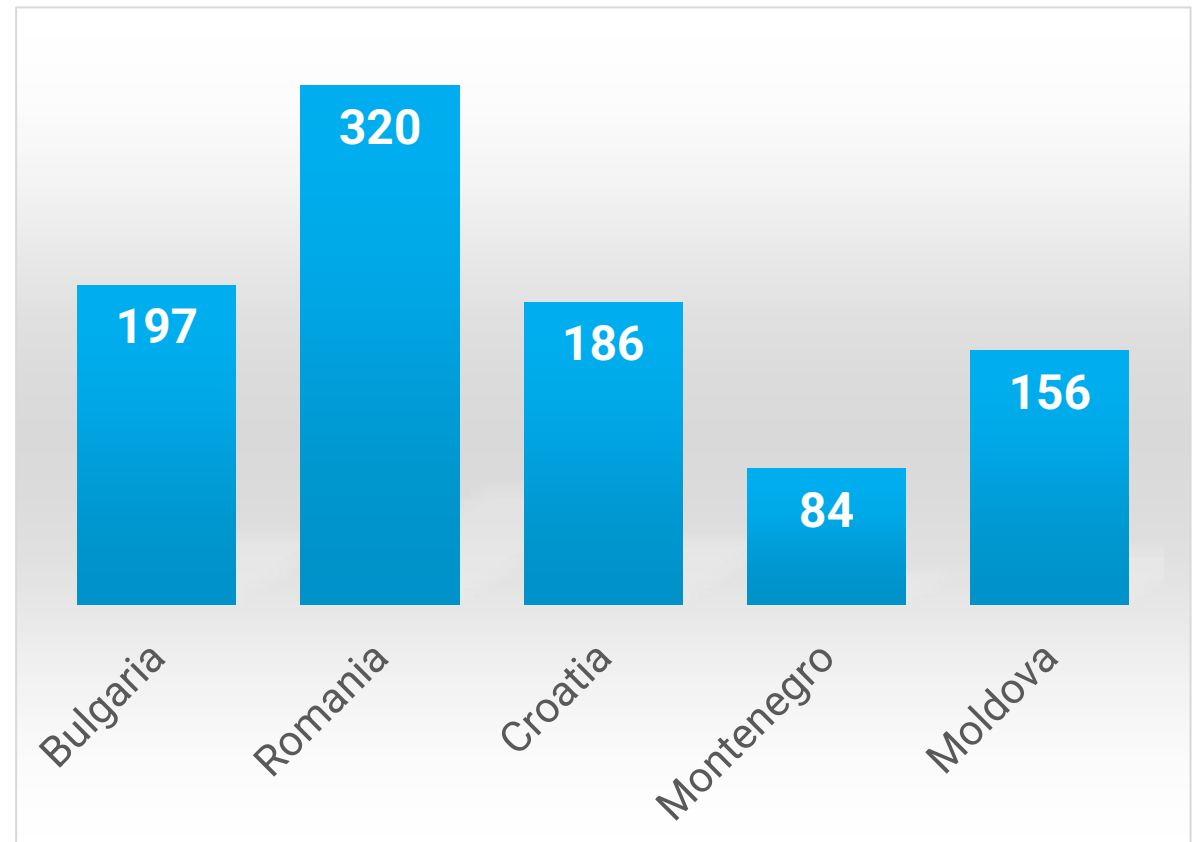
Source: EUROSTAT, AROP, 2020



# Issues for children

- Substantial progress in de-institutionalization
- Challenges remain:
  - Effective gatekeeping
  - Services for children with disabilities
  - Quality of services

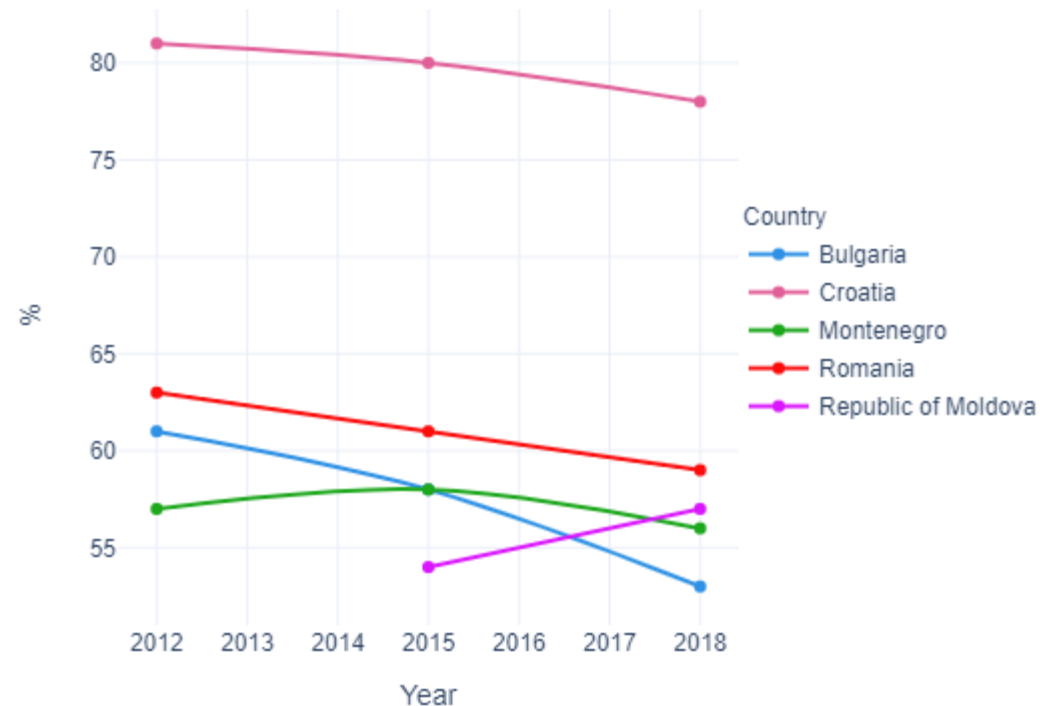
Rate of children in formal residential care at the end of the year, (per 100,000)



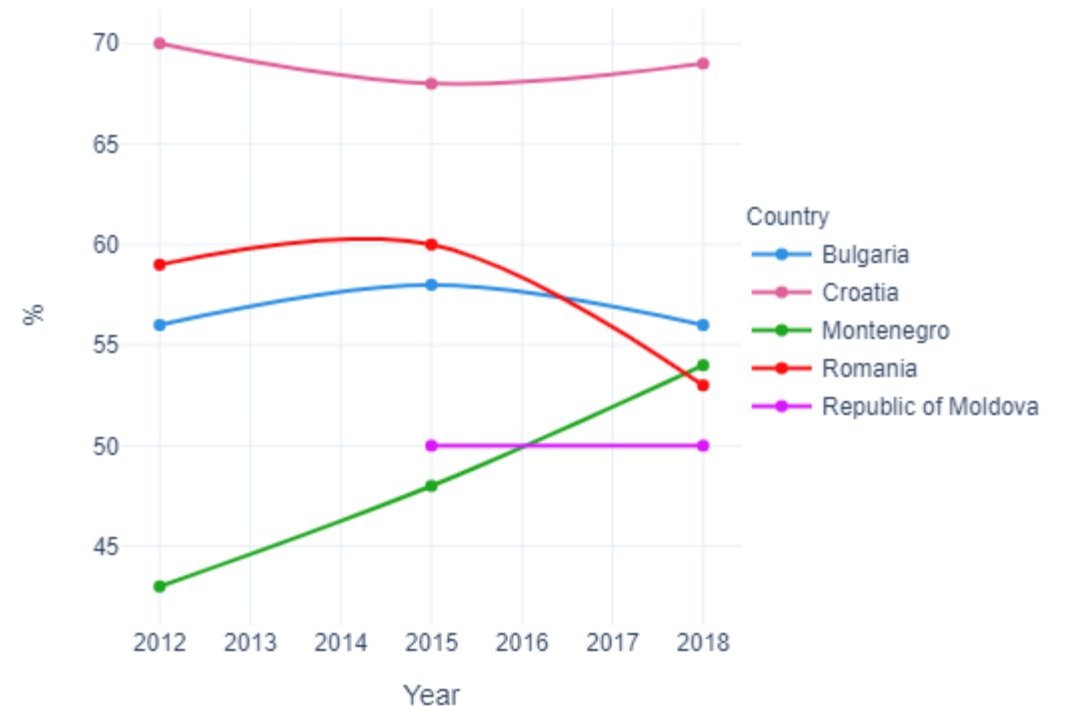
# Issues for children

- Poor learning outcomes among students

Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary education reaching minimum proficiency in **reading (%)**



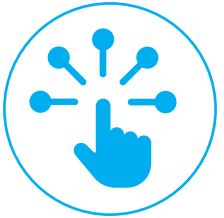
Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary education reaching minimum proficiency in **math (%)**



# Core change strategies



System strengthening



Digital transformation



Partnerships



HDP Nexus



© UNICEF/JUN154615/Pirozzi

# Bulgaria: the changes we want to achieve



Reducing the number of early leavers

Lower secondary out of school children  
B: 40,580 | T: 20,000



Improve learning outcomes

Achieving min. proficiency  
B: 54 | T: 59



Continue childcare reform

Children in residential care  
B: 3,427 | T: 3,000



Empowering children and adolescents

Engagement in civic initiatives  
B: 59 | T: 1,500



# Croatia: the changes we want to achieve



Address poor nutrition

Percentage of overweight children (8-9 y.)  
B: 35% | T: 30%



Improve learning outcomes

Fewer low achievers  
B: 26% | T: below 15%



Continue childcare reform

Children in residential care  
B: 1,260 | T: 1,060



Reduce subnational disparities

Roma ECE enrollment  
B: 23% | T: 54%

# Moldova: the changes we want to achieve



Expand youth-friendly health service clinics

Adolescents accessing youth-friendly health  
B: 25% | T: 35%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 1



Reducing child poverty

At risk-of poverty rate  
B: 26% | T: 22%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 2



Improved learning outcomes

Achieving min. proficiency  
B: 53% | T: 57%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 1



Improved data on children

Child-related SDG indicators available  
B: 36% | T: 45%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 2

# Montenegro: the changes we want to achieve



Breaking inter-generational poverty

At risk-of poverty rate

B: 33% | T: 31%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 2



Improved learning outcomes

Achieving min. proficiency

B: 54% | T: 59%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 3



Reducing subnational disparities

Roma ECE enrollment

B: 15% | T: 35%



Empowering children and adolescents

Engagement in civic initiatives

B: 2,500 | T: 10,000

UNSDCF  
Outcome 4



# Romania: the changes we want to achieve



Reducing  
child poverty

At risk-of  
poverty and  
exclusion  
B: 41.5% | T: 35%



Reducing the  
number of  
early leavers

Lower  
secondary out of  
school children  
B: 93,966 | T: 50,000



Continue  
childcare  
reform

Children in  
residential care  
B: 11,097 | T: 2,500



More effective  
investments in  
children

Local gov'ts with  
child-focused  
budgets  
B: 0 | T: 20



# Country Programmes 2023-2026 / 2023-2027

- Tajikistan
- Kyrgyzstan



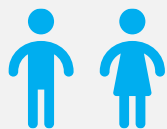
# Common features



Income level



Geography



Young population



Impacts of COVID-19



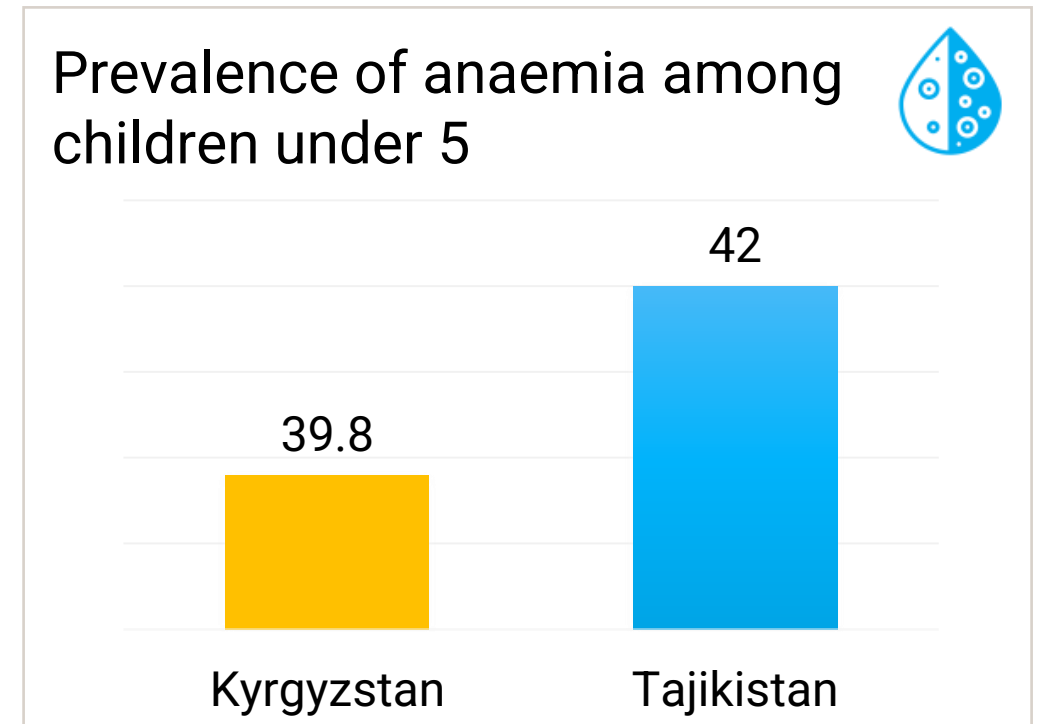
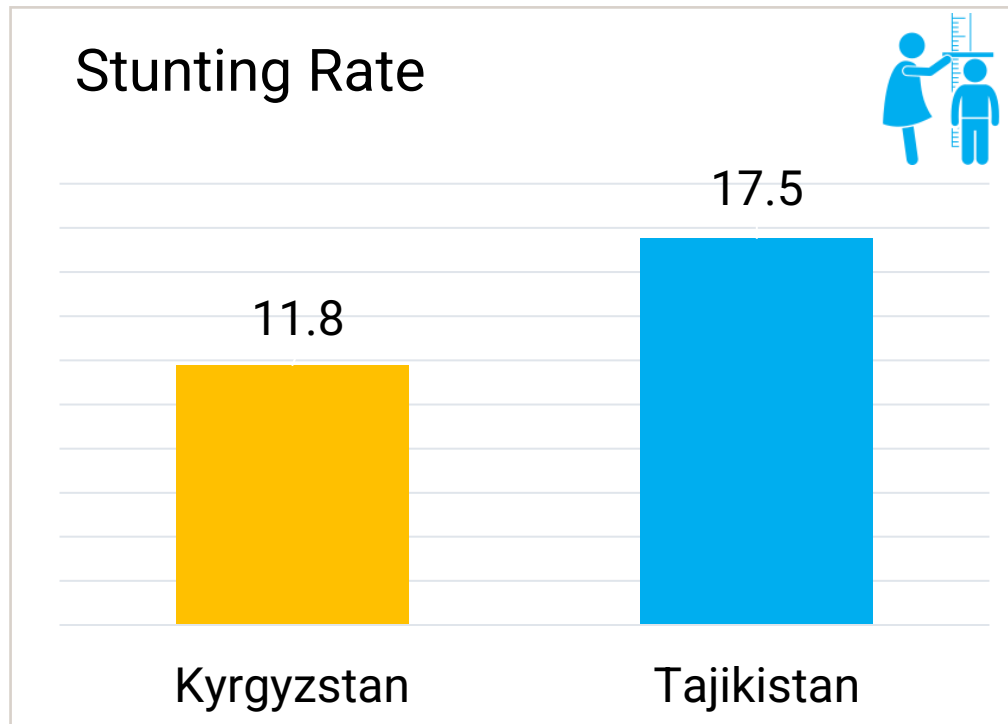
Ukraine emergency





# Issues for children

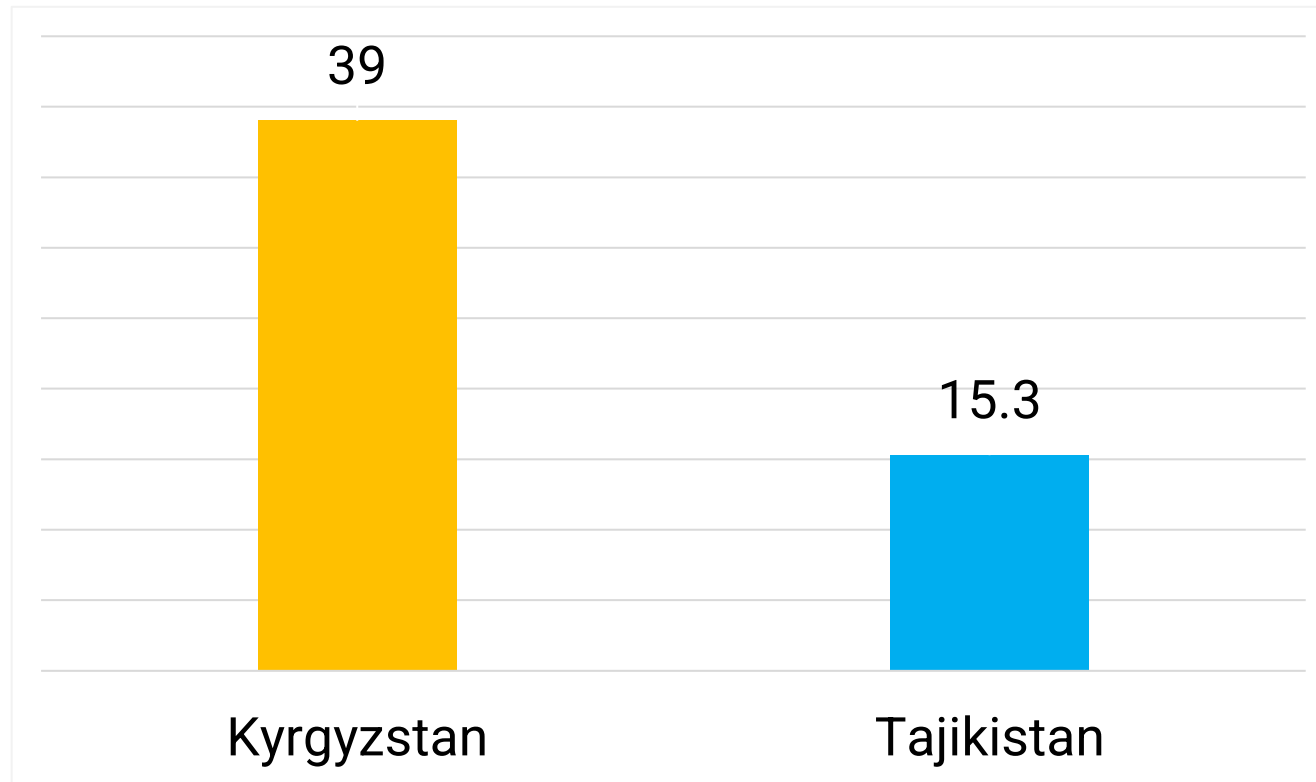
- Nutrition



Source: Kyrgyzstan, MICS, 2018  
Tajikistan, DHS, 2017

# Issues for children

## Early Child Education attendance (%)



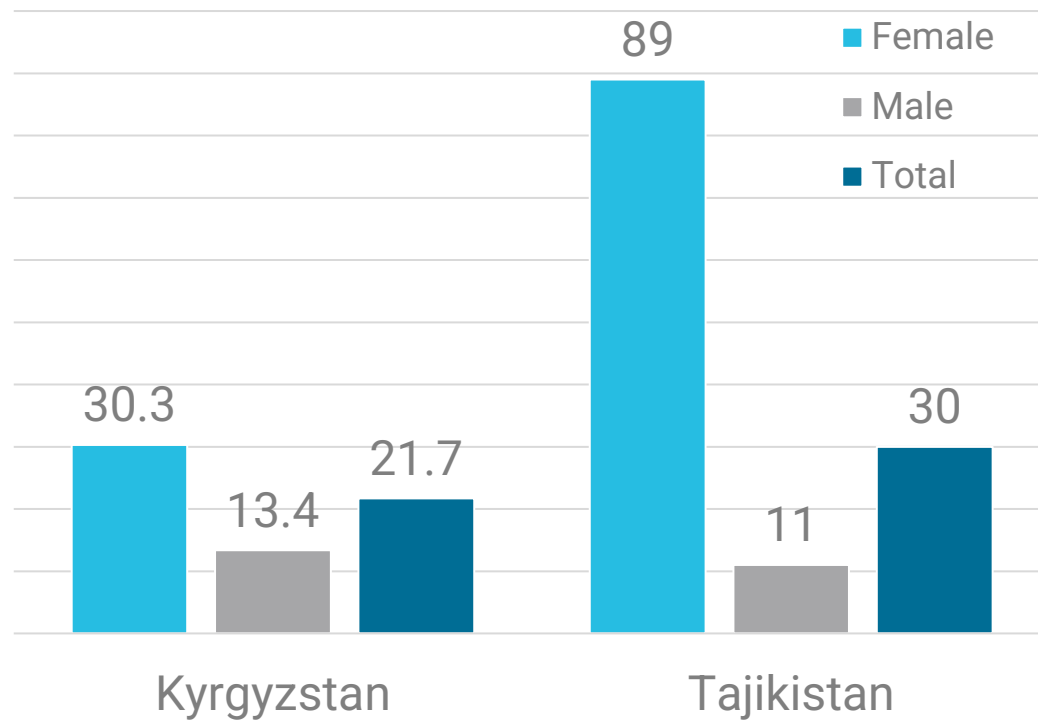
Source: Kyrgyzstan, MICS, 2018  
Tajikistan, EMIS, 2020



# Issues for children

- Unemployed youth

Young people aged 15–24 neither in employment, education or training (NEET)



Source: Kyrgyzstan, ILOSTAT, 2020  
Tajikistan, TAJSTAT, 2016





# Core change strategies



System strengthening



Social and behaviour change



Digital transformation



Cross-cutting programming



# Kyrgyzstan: the changes we want to achieve



Address poor nutrition

Children fed minimum number of food groups  
B: 60% | T: 70%

UNSDCF  
Outcomes 1 and 2



Improve early learning

Children 3-6 years attending ECE  
B: 39% | T: 60%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 1



Address unemployment among youth

NEET rate  
B: 22% | T: 18%  
30.3 | 26%  
13.4% | 10%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 1



Positive parenting practices

Children experiencing violent discipline  
B: 74% | T: 65%

UNSDCF  
Outcome 4

# Tajikistan: the changes we want to achieve



Address poor nutrition

Children consuming minimum acceptable diets  
B: 9% | T: 25%

UNSDCF Outcomes 1



Improve early learning

Children 3-6 years attending ECE  
B: 15.3% | T: 30%

UNSDCF Outcome 1



Address unemployment among youth

NEET rate  
B: 30% | T: 25%

UNSDCF Outcomes 1 and 2



Improve WASH

Population using safely managed drinking water  
B: 55% | T: 65%

UNSDCF Outcome 3





Thank you.

© UNICEF/JN0236699/Voroniin