

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN
IN IRAN

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024

Factsheet on the situation of Children in Iran

Data Factsheet – December 2024

Prepared by UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office

This country factsheet provides a snapshot of the situation of children, adolescents and youth in Iran, aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The factsheet gives an overview of the most recent child-related statistics, drawing on internationally comparable indicators available through global databases. Indicators have been chosen based on the availability of historical data from 2010 and geographic coverage, with priority to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

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- (1) Demographic and Economic Overview
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- (3) Right to proper nutrition
- (4) Right to education
- (5) Right to be protected
- (6) Right to an equitable chance in life
- (7) Right to a clean and safe environment

HIGHLIGHTS

- Iran is an **upper-middle income** economy. The GDP per capita growth has reached 4% in 2023.
- Children represented about **quarter the population** in 2023.
- The country has made considerable progress in reducing child mortality, **more than halving** the rates of neonatal, infant, and under-five.
- Almost all children received 3 doses of the DTP vaccine and 2 doses of measles vaccine in 2023, with **coverage rates of 99% for both**.
- About a **quarter of youth** aged 15-24 were not in employment, education, or training in 2022, with **females disproportionately affected at 38%**.
- **One in four youth** aged 15 to 24 in the labour market were unemployed in 2022, with the rate rising to 36% for females.
- About 4% of the children live under \$3.65 a day.
- The children's climate risk index was **medium-high**, while the climate and environment shocks was classified as **extremely high** in 2020.

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Demography and Economy

Demography

% of the population 2023

Children (0-4 years)	6.8
Children (0-17 years)	27.0
Adolescents (10-19 years)	14.4

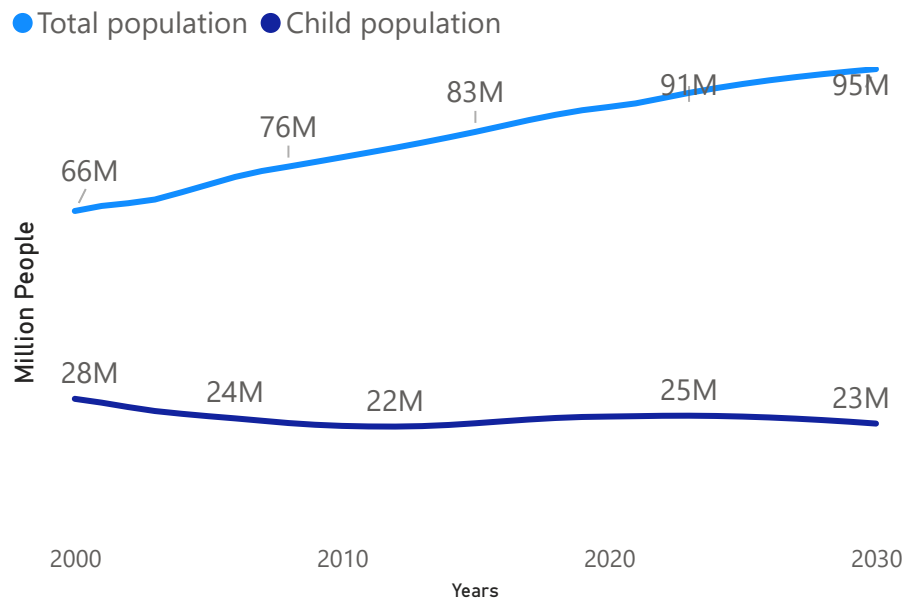
Number of births per year (in thousands) 2023

Number of births	1173
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Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years 2023

Total fertility rate	1.7
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Population Trends and Projections (2000-2030)



Total population 2023

2023

91M

Child population 2023

2023

25M

Population growth rate (annual % change)

2023

1.1

Urban population (%)

2023

77.3

Refugees & asylum seekers (% of total population)

2023

4.2

% of children (0-17) years amongst refugee population

2023

50.7

% of children (2-17) years with functional difficulties

No Data

Economy

World Bank 2023/2024 Income classification

Upper middle income

Indicator 2022

GDP per capita (current US\$)	4668.5
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Indicator 2022

Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	43.5
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Annual GDP and GDP per Capita Growth (2000-2023)





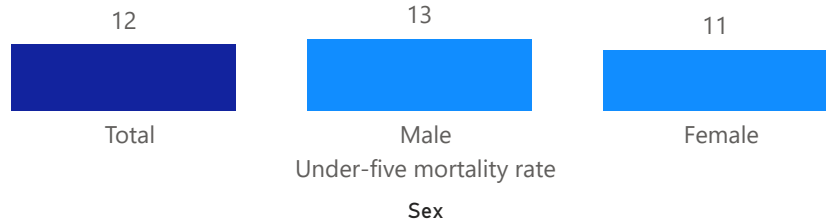
Child Mortality

Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate

2022

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	19	8
Infant mortality rate	30	10
Under-five mortality rate	36	12

Deaths per 1000 live births



Under-five deaths
2022

15K

Maternal and Child Health

Inequalities in Access to institutional deliveries

2010

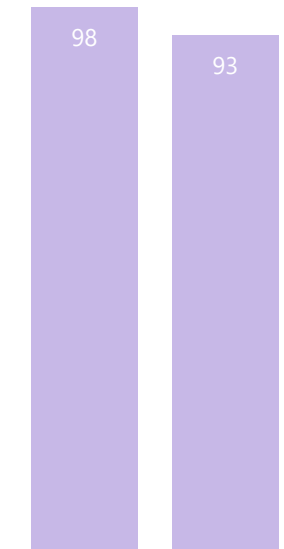
% of women with a live birth in the last 2 years



Institutional deliveries

Inequalities in Access to skilled birth attendant

2014

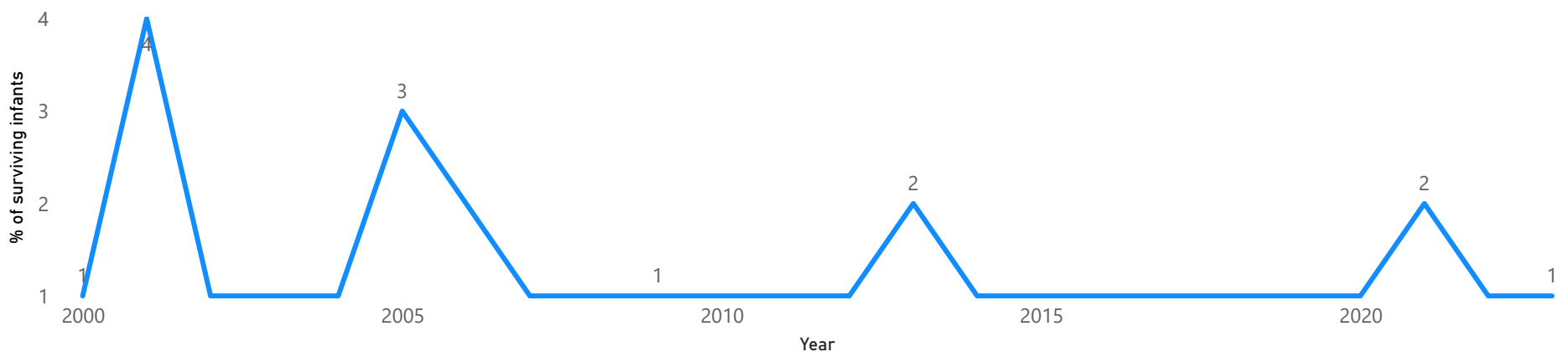


Skilled birth attendant

Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, with a live birth in the last 2 years)	2010	2014
Institutional deliveries	95	
Skilled birth attendant	96	99

Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years)	2023
Received 1st dose of DTP	99
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	99
Received 3 doses of DTP	99

Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)





Right to proper nutrition

Nutrition

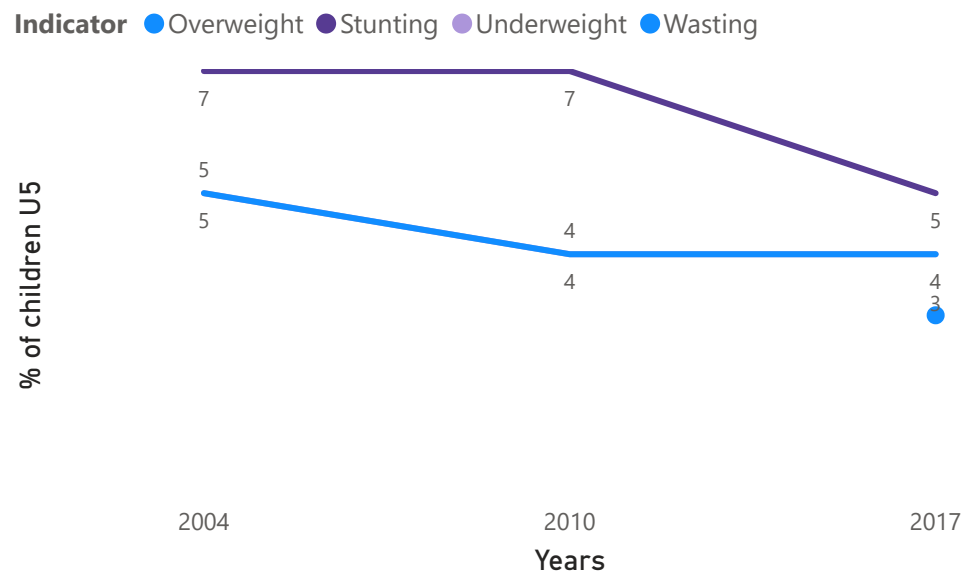
Infant and young child feeding (% of children) 2010

Exclusive breastfeeding (0-5 months) 53

Malnutrition (% of children, under 5 years) 2017

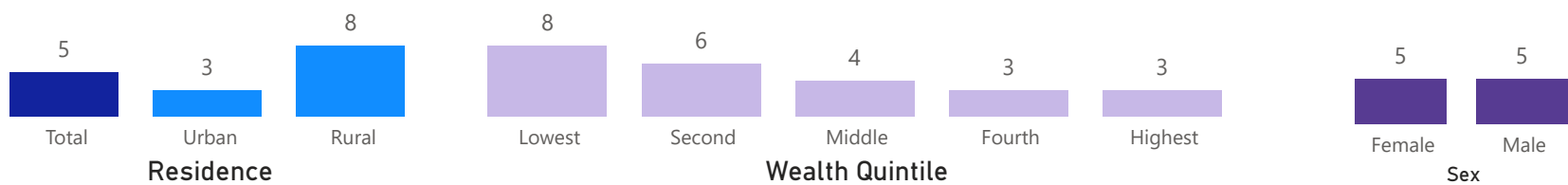
Overweight	3
Stunting	5
Underweight	4
Wasting	4

Malnutrition Trend



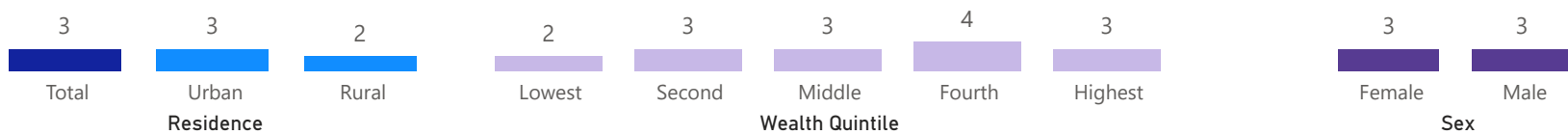
Inequalities in Stunting 2017

% of children under 5 years



Overweight Inequalities 2017

% of children under 5 years





Education, Training and Employment

School net attendance by education level (% of children of the relevant age group)	2011
Pre-Primary	97
Primary	97
Lower Secondary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

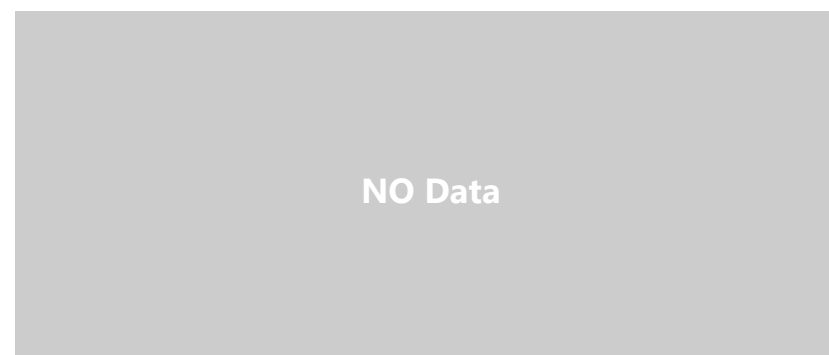
School completion by education level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	Year
Primary	No Data
Lower Secondary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

Out-of-school children by educational level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	Year
Primary	No Data
Lower Secondary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

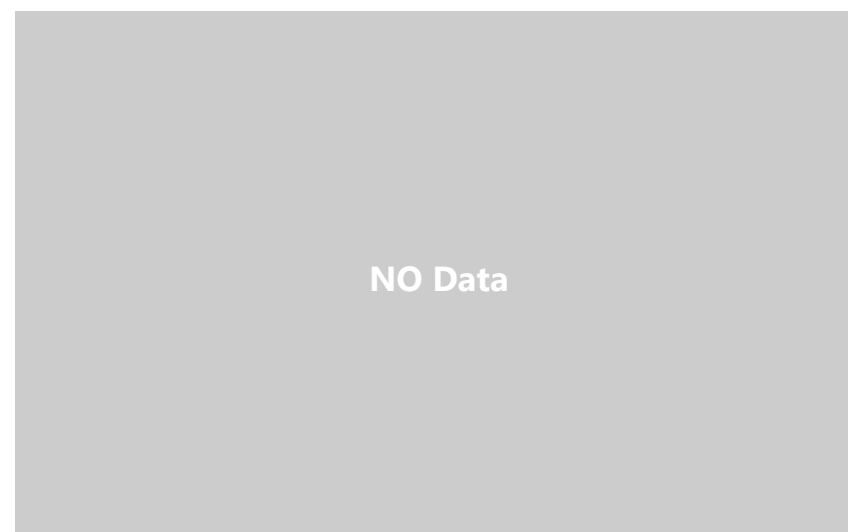
Reading/ Math proficiency	Year
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics	No Data
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading	No Data

Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex	2022
Total	27
Male	17
Female	38

School Completion Rates by sex



Inequalities in Out of School Children of Upper-Secondary School Aged Children



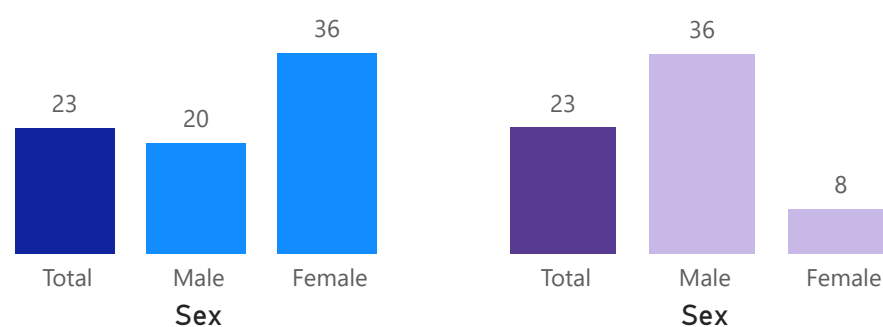
Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2022

Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)

2022

% of youth



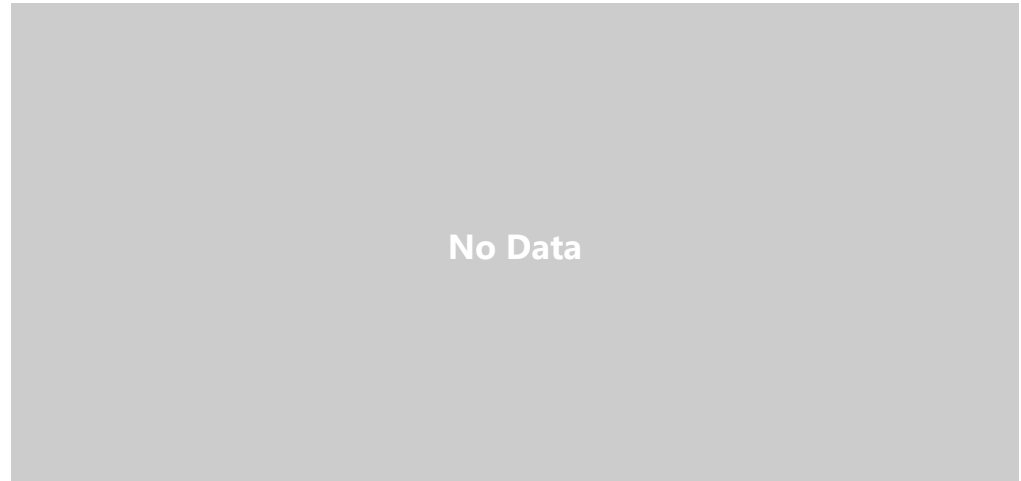


Violence

Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline

Violent child discipline (% of children aged 1-14 years) Year

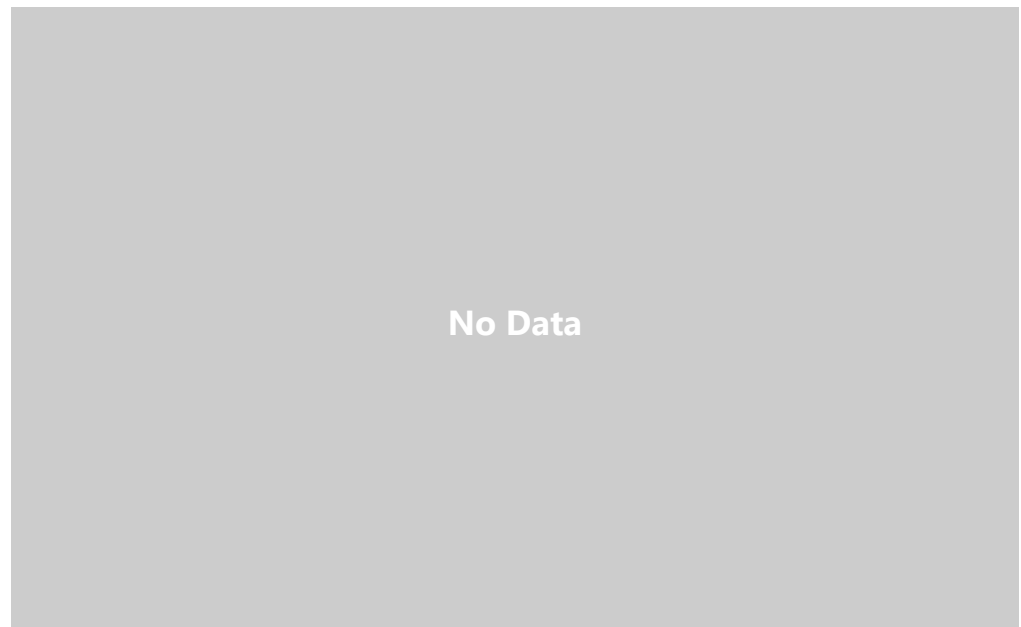
Violent Child Discipline	
Total	No Data
Male	No Data
Female	No Data



Inequalities in Child Marriage before 18

Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 years) 2010

Married before 15	3
Married before 18	17



Child labour (% of children aged 5-17 years) Year

Child labour	No Data
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Birth Registration

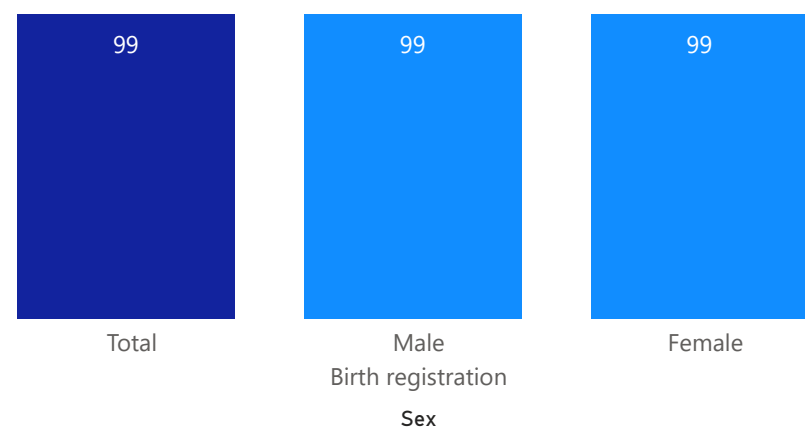
Inequalities in Birth Registration

2010

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years) 2010

Birth registration	
Total	99
Rural	98
Urban	99

% of children under 5 years





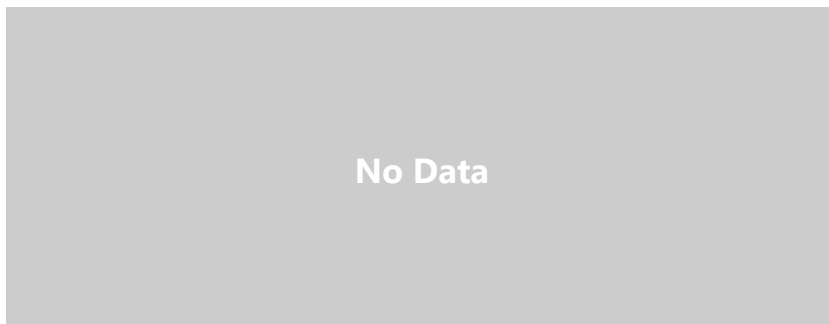
Right to equitable chance in life

Poverty

Monetary poverty	Year
Children (0-17) living in households with income below the national poverty line (% of all children)	No Data

Children (0-17) living below \$2.15 poverty line (extreme poverty) (% of all children)	Children (0-17) living below \$3.65 poverty line (% of all children)	Children (0-17) living below \$6.85 poverty line (% of all children)
0.50	3.70	34.90

Child multidimensional poverty headcount ratio

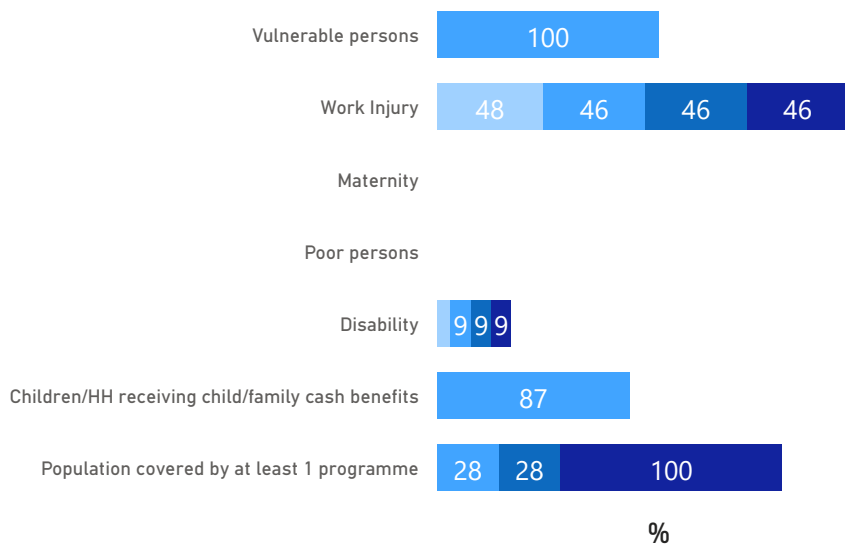


Dimensions of Multidimensional Poverty	Water	Household does not have piped water into dwelling or yard
	Sanitation	Unimproved toilet facility Shared toilet
	Housing	Primitive floor/Type of Household Overcrowding (more than 3 people per room)
	Health	Unskilled birth assistance (0-23 months) Not fully immunized (12-59 months) No antenatal care (0-23 months)
	Nutrition	Infant and Young Child Feeding (0-23 months)
		Wasting (0-4 years)
		Stunting (24 <months) Obesity (24 <months)
	Education	Not enrolled in school Two or more grades behind school/did not
	Information	No access to any information or communication device

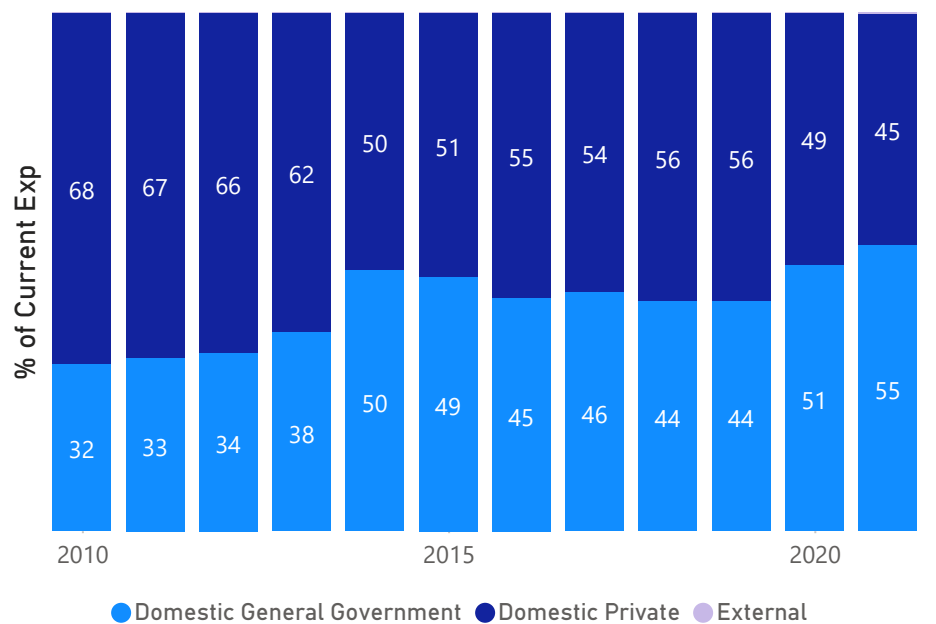
Public Expenditure on Essential services

Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period ● 2017 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2023



Changes in the Composition of Domestic Health Expenditure



Government expenditure on health % of GDP
2018

4.0

Government expenditure on education % of GDP
2020

4.5

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP
2010

10.1



Right to a clean and safe environment

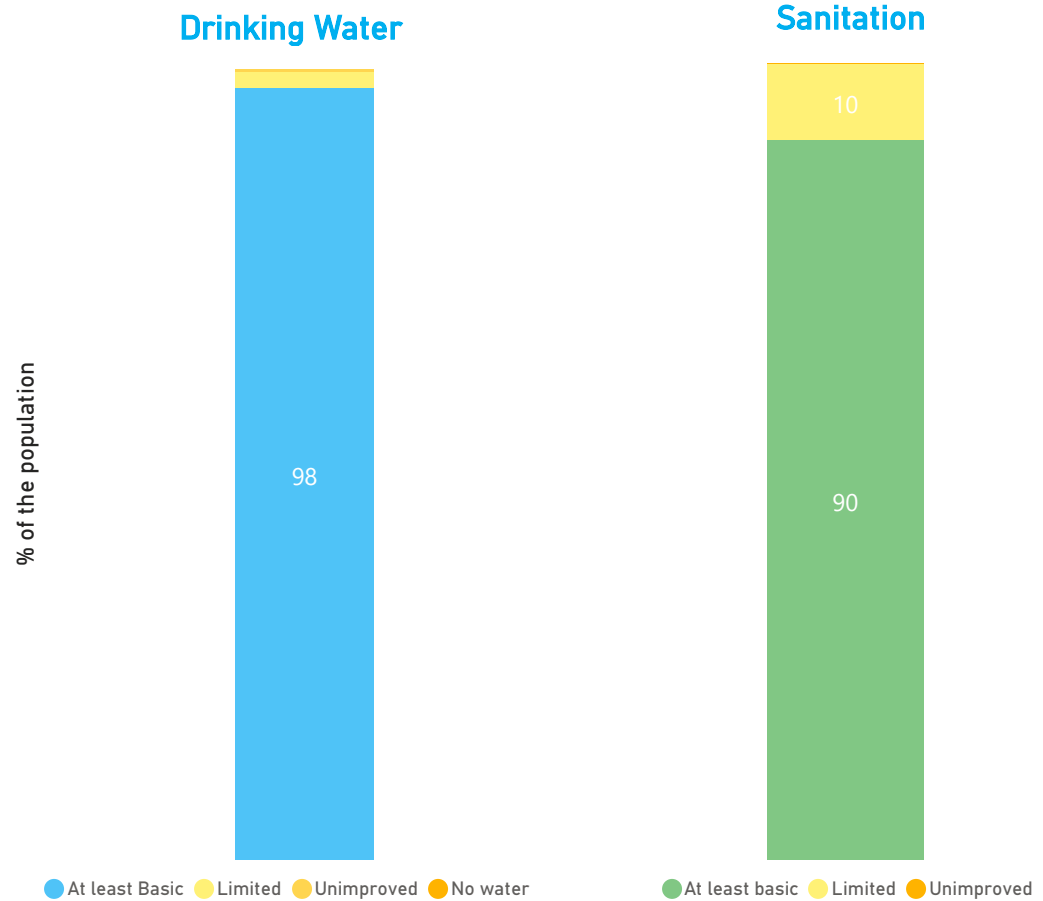
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

2022

Household coverage (%)	2022
At least basic drinking water	98
At least basic sanitation	90

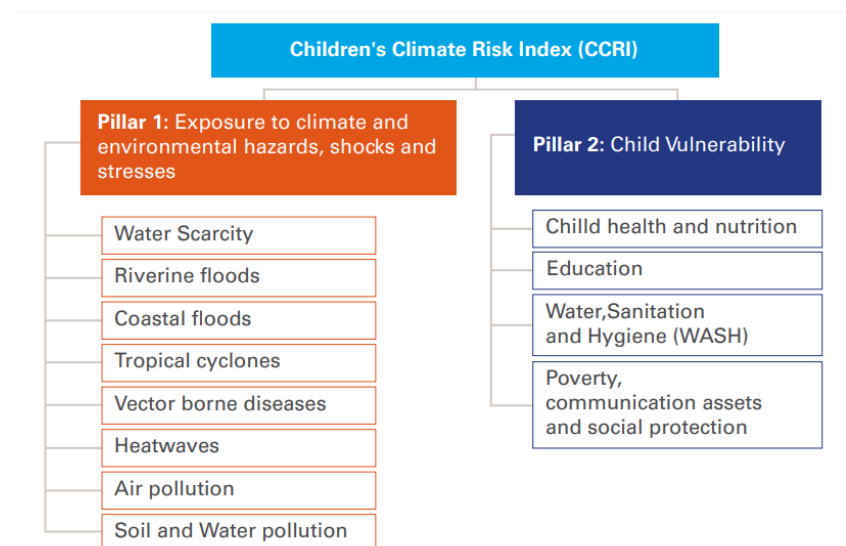
School coverage (%)	Year
Basic drinking water	No Data
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	No Data
Basic sanitation	No Data



Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator	2020
Water Stress	High

Indicator	2020
Children's Climate and Environment Risk Index	Medium-High
Child vulnerability	Low-Medium
Climate and environmental shocks	Extremely High



*The CCRI is a composite index which brings together geographical data by analyzing: 1) exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses; and 2) child vulnerability.

Child-related SDG indicators

The 2030 Agenda includes 17 Global Goals addressing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. To chart and track how ambitious and how realistic country targets are, UNICEF created quantifiable country-level brief benchmarks for child-related indicators for which data are available to measure and monitor child rights on a common scale.

These country briefs leverage UNICEF's extensive analysis of 48 child-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, structured around five fundamental domains of child well-being: Survive and Thrive, Learning, Protection from Harm, Safe and Clean Environment, and Life Free from Poverty. The analysis offers a detailed, multifaceted perspective on the state of children's rights and experiences across the globe.

Availability of data on child wellbeing monitoring: Iran has data on 32 of the 48 child related SDGs (67% availability).

For further information on the countries' benchmarking briefs, please visit [Progress on Children's Well-being: Country Briefs - UNICEF DATA](#)

Data Sources

Demography

- UN Population Division, [World Population Prospects 2024](#).
- UNHCR [Refugee Population Statistics database](#)
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), [Global Internal Displacement Database \(GIDD\)](#)

Economy: The World Bank Data Portal, [World Development Indicators](#).

Mortality: UN Inter-agency group for child mortality estimations ([UN IGME](#)).

Maternal and Child Health: WHO/UNICEF [estimates of national immunization coverage](#).

Nutrition: UNICEF/WHO/The World Bank [Joint Malnutrition Estimates \(JME\)](#). Country survey estimates.

Education, Training and Employment :

- National Household Surveys estimates for education data. [UNICEF MENA data warehouse](#)
- International Labor Organization (ILO). [ILOSTAT](#)
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics ([UIS](#)) and National Household Surveys estimates.

Violence: [UNICEF data warehouse](#), based on household surveys.

Poverty

- The World Bank & UNICEF (2023). [Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines](#).
- ESCWA, UNICEF, UNDP and OPHI. (2023). [Second Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report](#).

Public expenditure on essential services

- [ILOSTAT](#) for social protection data
- [WHO Global Health Expenditure Database](#)
- The UNESCO Institute for Statistics ([UIS](#)) for education expenditure data

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- WHO/UNICEF [Joint Monitoring Programme for Water, Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene \(2000-2022\)](#).
- Water Stress Data: [AQUASTAT](#)
- UNICEF [Children's Climate Risk Index](#)

Most of the indicators are available at [UNICEF MENA data warehouse](#)

For more information please visit
UNICEF data (data.unicef.org) or contact:

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