

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN
IN JORDAN

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024

Factsheet on the situation of Children in Jordan

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 Jordan, 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

Contents:

(1) Demographic and Economic Overview

(2) Right to health and healthcare

(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

- Jordan is a **lower-middle income** economy. The GDP per capita growth increased by 2% in 2023.
- Children represented **more than a third** of the population in 2023. Refugees and asylum seekers represented **6%** of the total population and almost half were children in 2023.
- The country has made major progress in terms of reducing child mortality, achieving **nearly a 50% reduction** between 2000 and 2022.
- The percentage of **zero-dose children** who had not received any doses of the DTP vaccine dropped remarkably from **22% in 2020 to 3% in 2023**.
- School completion rates decrease with level of education from **96%** in primary school to **56%** in upper secondary, with boys being disadvantaged at all levels in 2018.
- **42%** of youth aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in 2022, and **nearly a quarter** were not in employment, education, or training, with females disproportionately affected.
- Violent child discipline is prevalent with **82% of the children** aged 1-14 years experiencing violent forms of discipline in 2018.
- **14%** of children lived in multidimensional poverty in 2018, **a reduction from 22%** in 2012.
- **Over a quarter** (27%) of the Jordanian population was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2021.
- The level of water stress was **critical** and the children's climate risk index was classified as **medium-high** in 2020.

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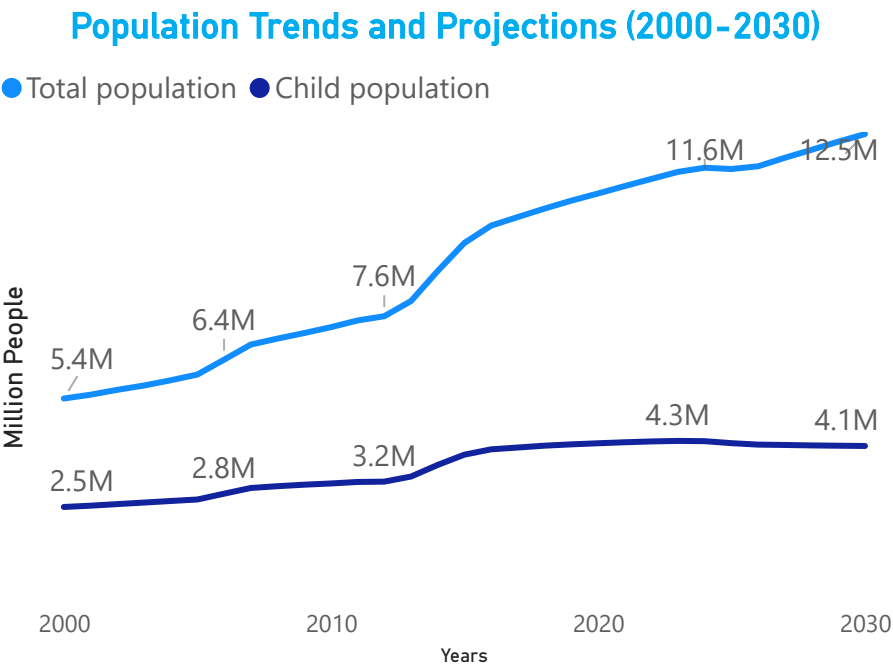
Demography and Economy

Demography

% of the population		2023
Children (0-4 years)		10.2
Children (0-17 years)		37.2
Adolescents (10-19 years)		20.4

Number of births per year (in thousands)		2023
Number of births		236

Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years		2023
Total fertility rate		2.6



Total population
2023

11M

Child population
2023

4M

Population growth rate (annual % change)	Urban population (%)	Refugees & asylum seekers (% of total population)	% of children (0-17) years amongst refugee population	% of children (2-17) years with functional difficulties
2023	2023	2023	2023	
1.6	92.0	6.0	48.1	No Data

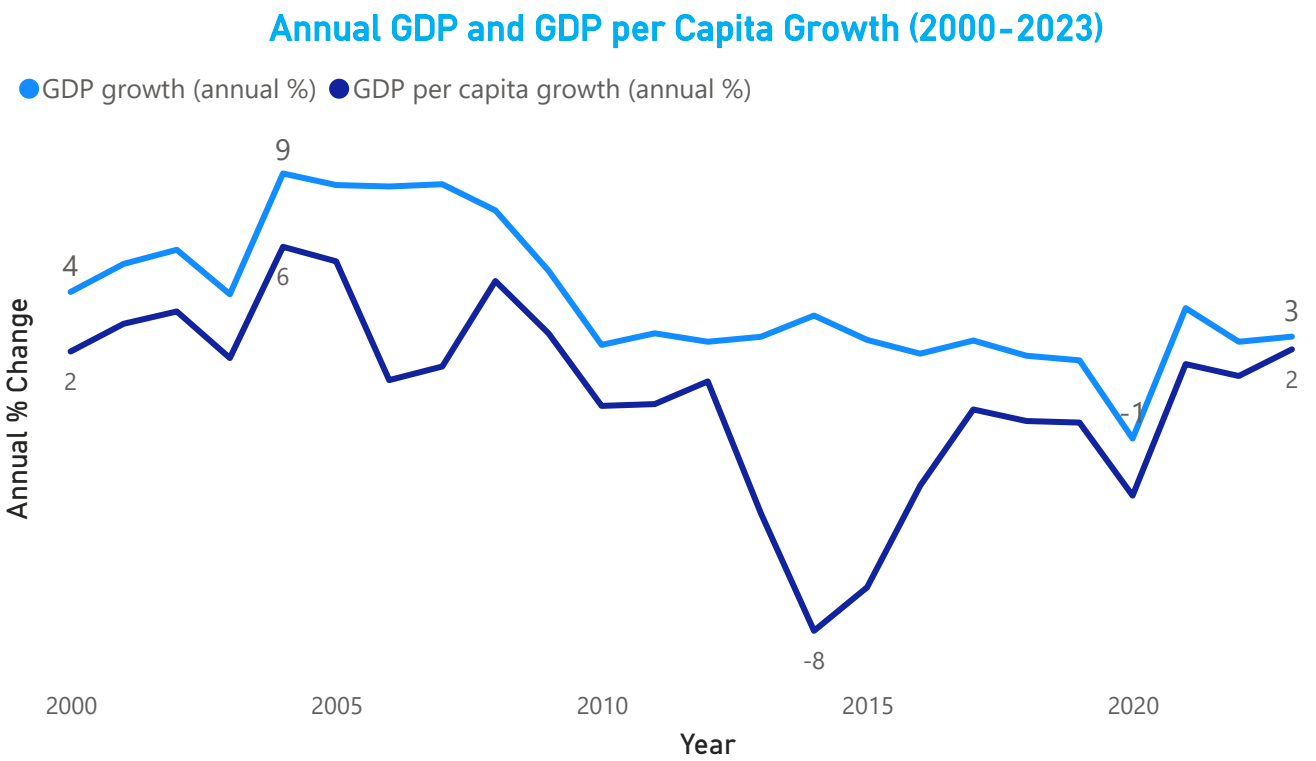
Economy

World Bank 2023/2024 Income
classification

Lower middle income

Indicator	2023
GDP per capita (current US\$)	4482.1

Indicator	2023
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	2.1





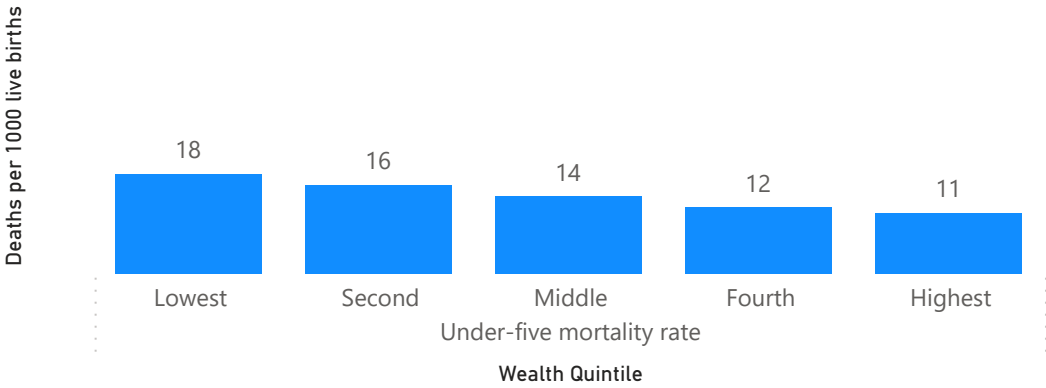
Child Mortality

Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate
2022

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	16	8
Infant mortality rate	23	12
Under-five mortality rate	27	14

Under-five deaths
2022

3450

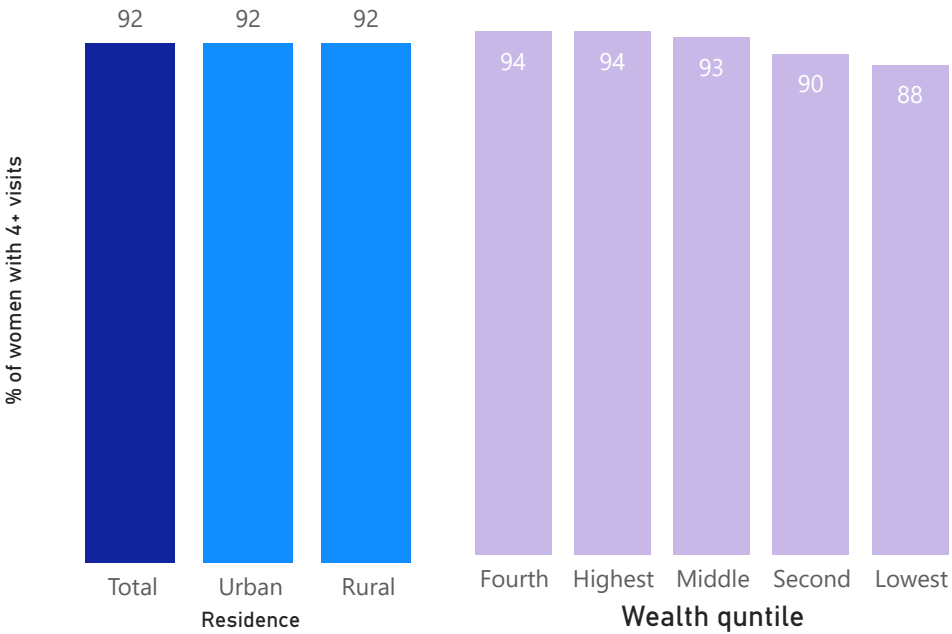


Maternal and Child Health

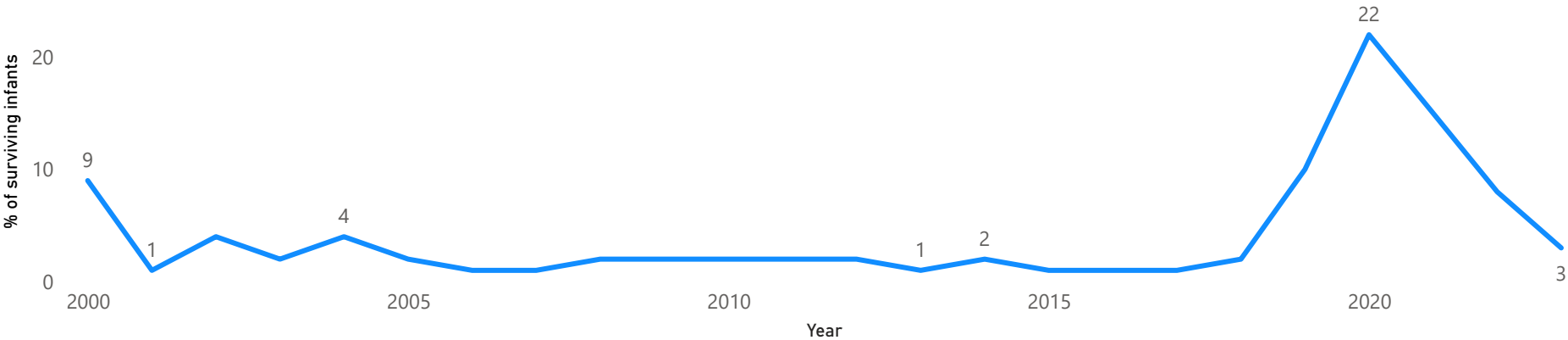
Inequalities in Access to Antenatal Care
2018

Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, with a live birth in the last 2 years)	2018
Antenatal care 4+ visits	92
Institutional deliveries	98
Skilled birth attendant	100

Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years)	2023
Received 1st dose of DTP	97
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	89
Received 3 doses of DTP	96



Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)

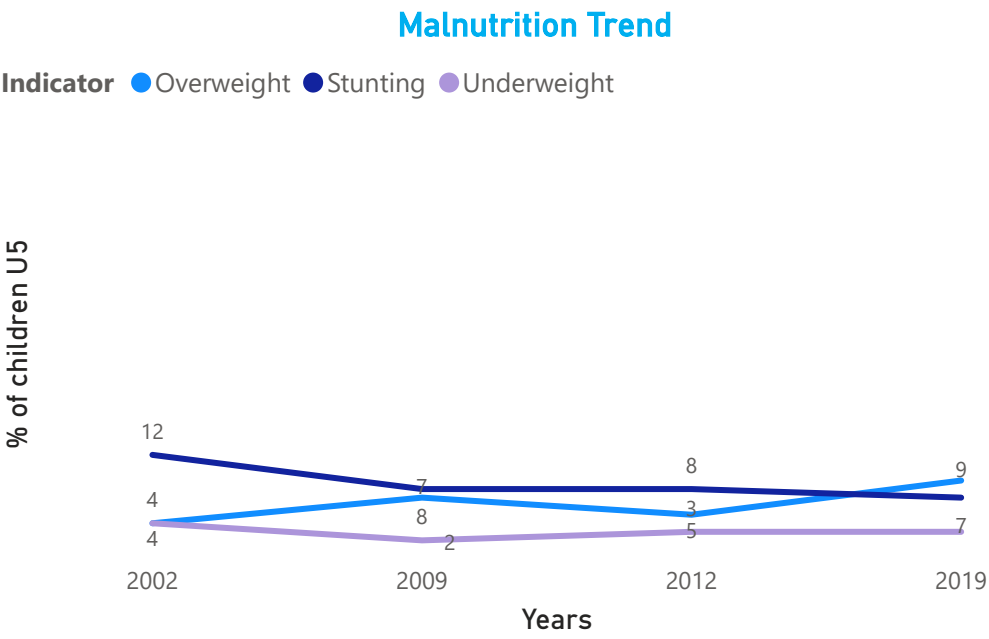




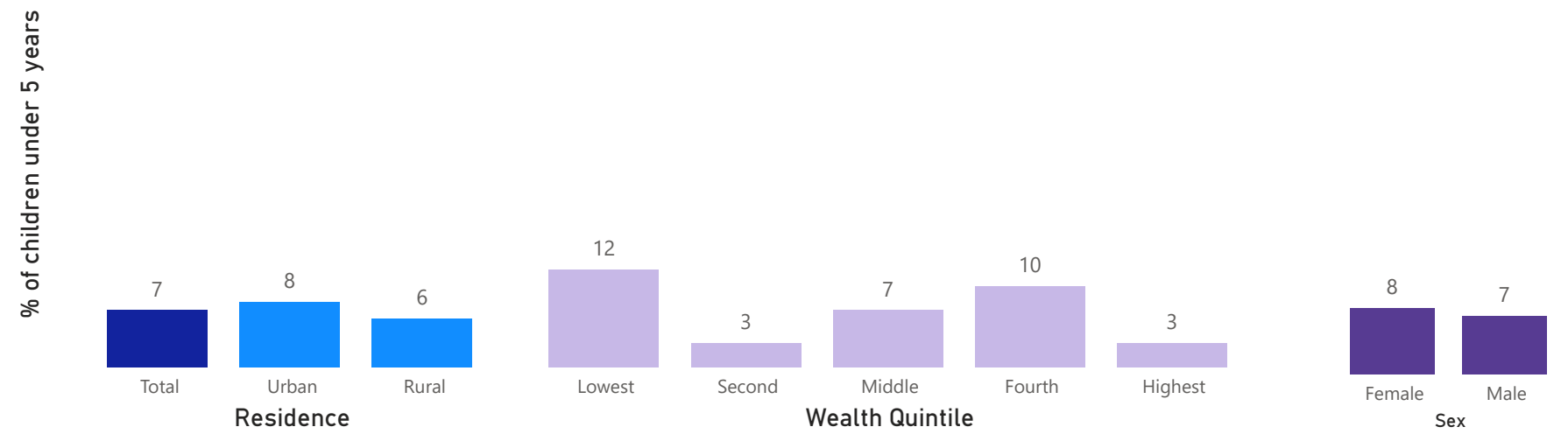
Nutrition

Infant and young child feeding (% of children) 2017	
Exclusive breastfeeding (0-5 months)	25
Minimum diet diversity (6 to 23 months)	35

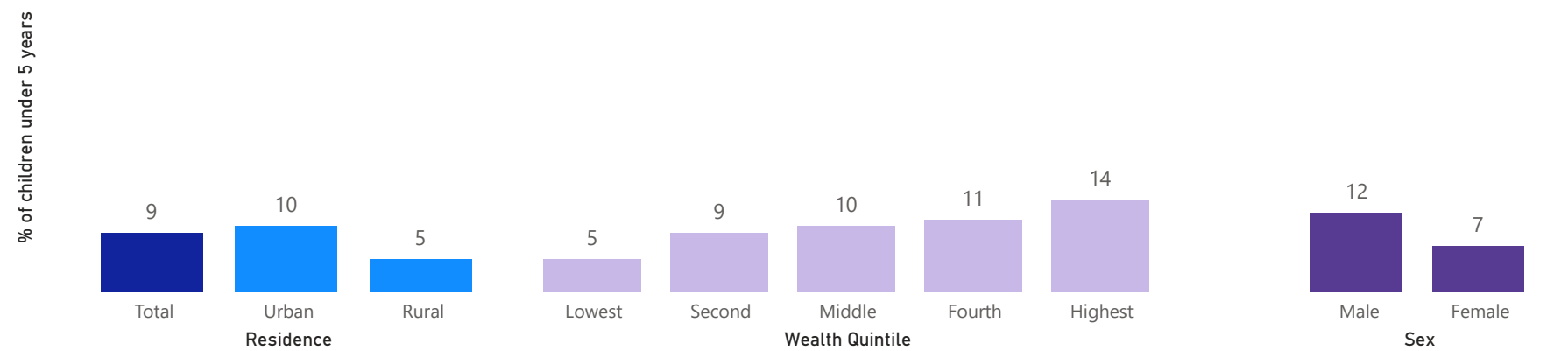
Malnutrition (% of children, under 5 years) 2019	
Overweight	9
Stunting	7
Underweight	3
Wasting	1



Inequalities in Stunting 2019



Overweight Inequalities 2019





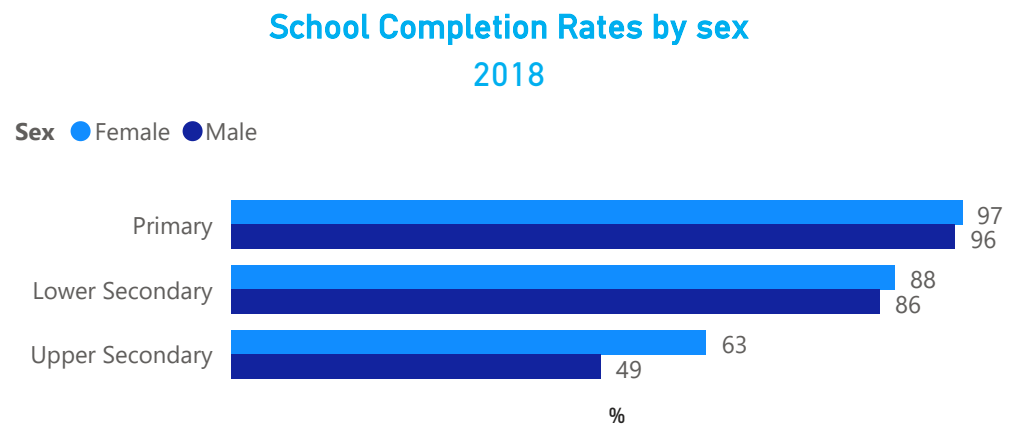
Education, Training and Employment

School net attendance by education level (% of children of the relevant age group)	2018
Pre-Primary	45
Primary	97
Lower Secondary	89
Upper Secondary	71

School completion by education level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	2018
Primary	96
Lower Secondary	87
Upper Secondary	56

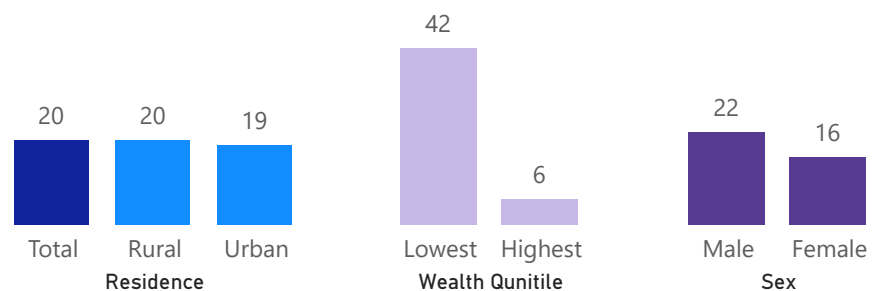
Out-of-school children by educational level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	2018
Primary	3
Lower Secondary	5
Upper Secondary	20

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



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

2018

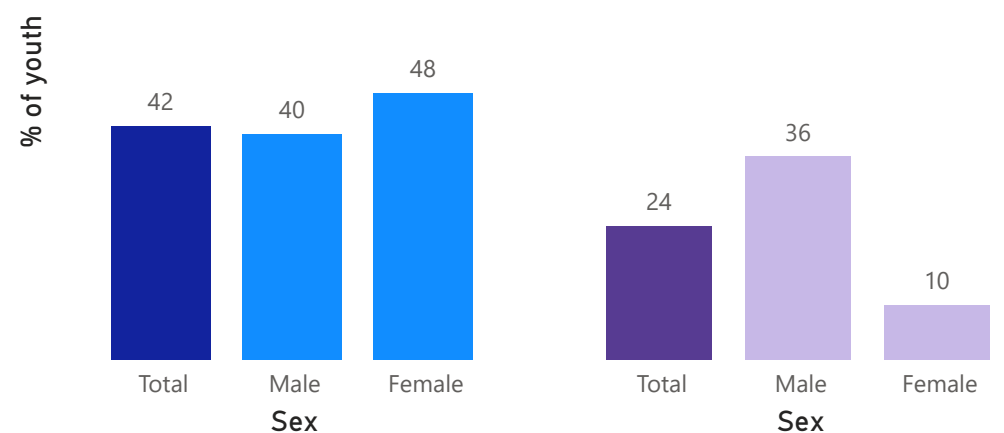


Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2022

Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)

2022

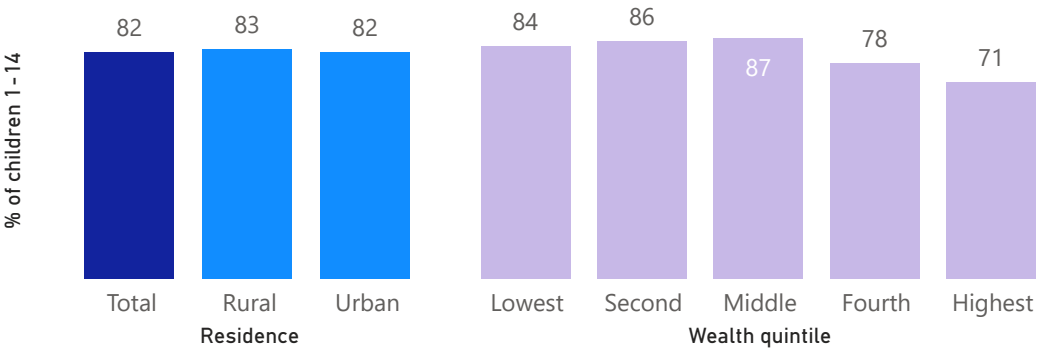


Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex	2022
Total	31
Male	27
Female	36

Violence

Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline
2018

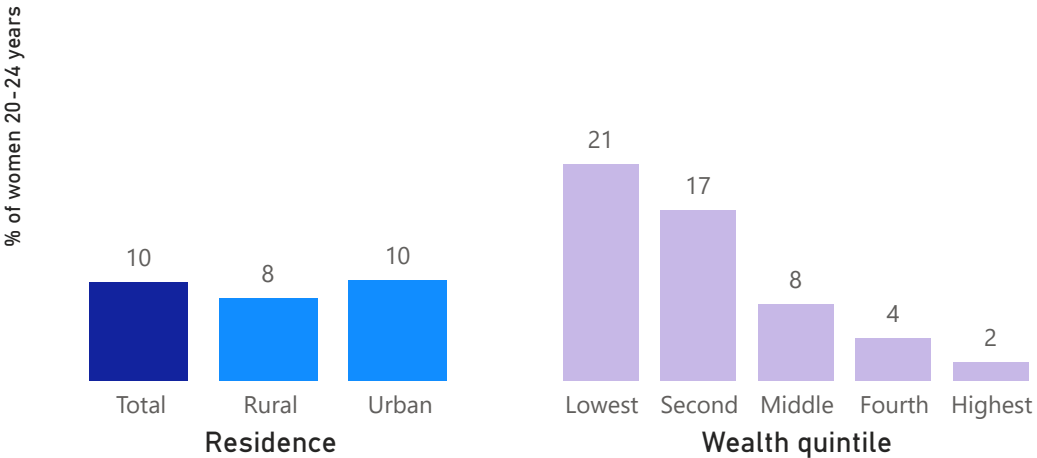
Violent child discipline (% of children aged 1-14 years) 2018	
Violent Child Discipline	
Total	82
Male	83
Female	80



Inequalities in Child Marriage before 18
2018

Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 years) 2018	
Married before 15	2
Married before 18	10

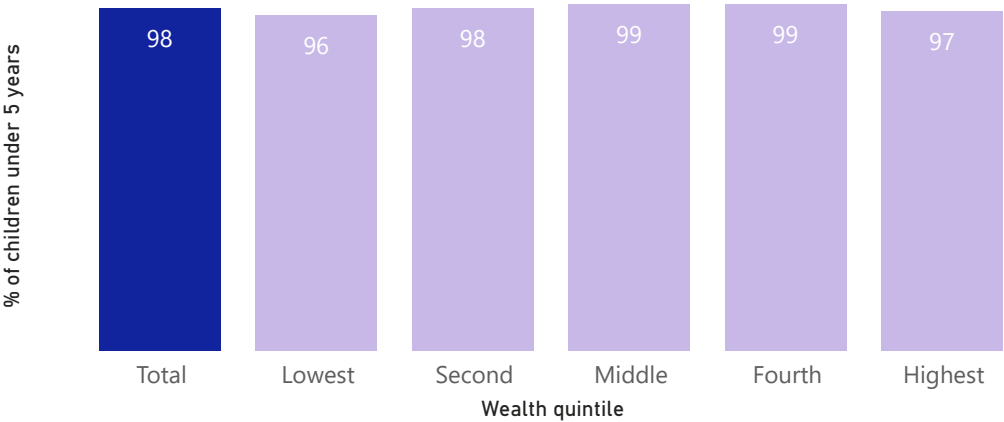
Child labour (% of children aged 5-17 years) 2016	
Child labour	
Total	2
Male	2
Female	1



Birth Registration

Inequalities in Birth Registration
2018

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years) 2018	
Birth registration	
Total	98
Rural	99
Urban	98





Right to equitable chance in life

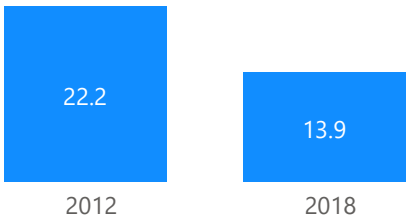
Poverty

Monetary poverty 2020

Children (0-17) living in households with income below the national poverty line (% of all children) 16.1

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)
0.1	0.3	5.8

Child multidimensional poverty headcount ratio

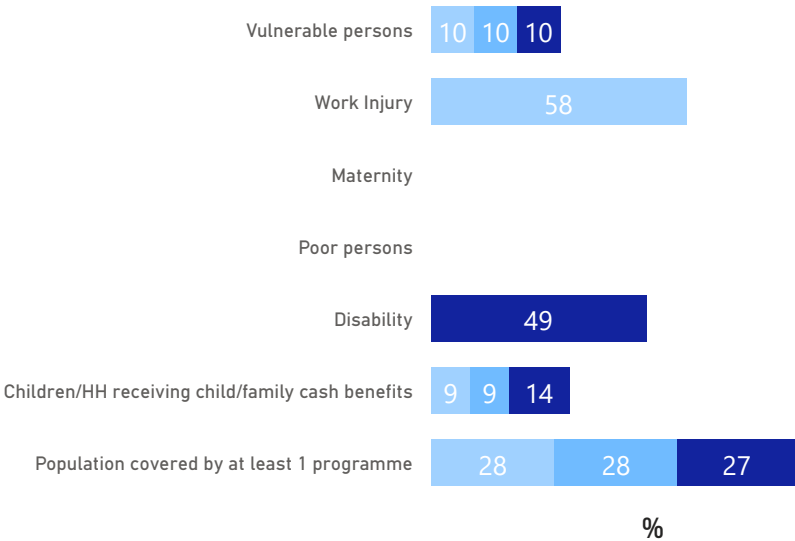


Dimensions of Multidimensional Poverty	Water	Household does not have piped water into dwelling or yard
	Sanitation	Unimproved toilet facility Shared toilet
	Housing	Primitive floor/Type of Household Overcrowding (more than 3 people per room)
	Health	Unskilled birth assistance (0-23 months) Not fully 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

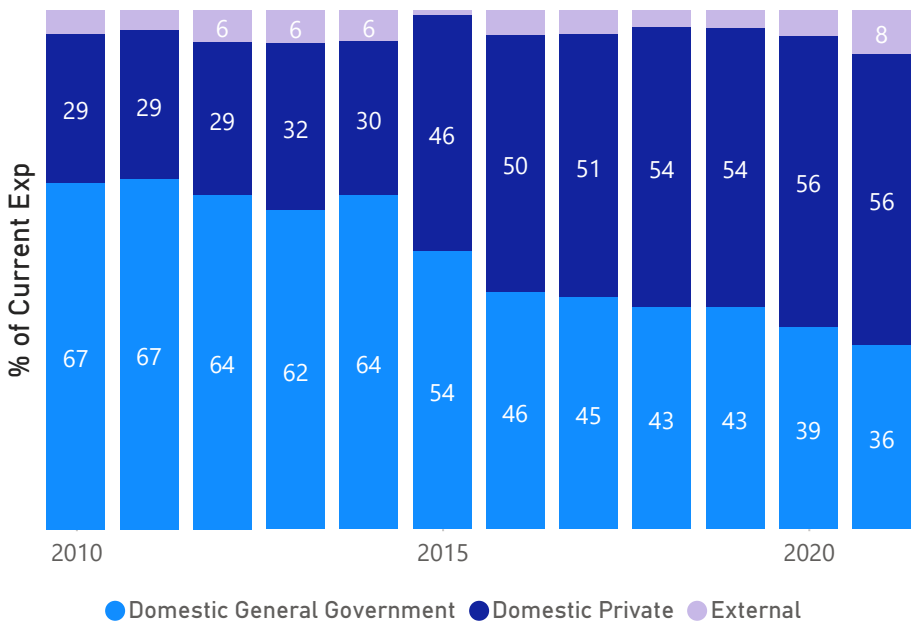
Public Expenditure on Essential services

Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period 2019 2020 2021



Changes in the Composition of Domestic Health Expenditure



Government expenditure on health % of GDP 2018

3.8

Government expenditure on education % of GDP 2019

7.3

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP 2018

9.0



Right to a clean and safe environment

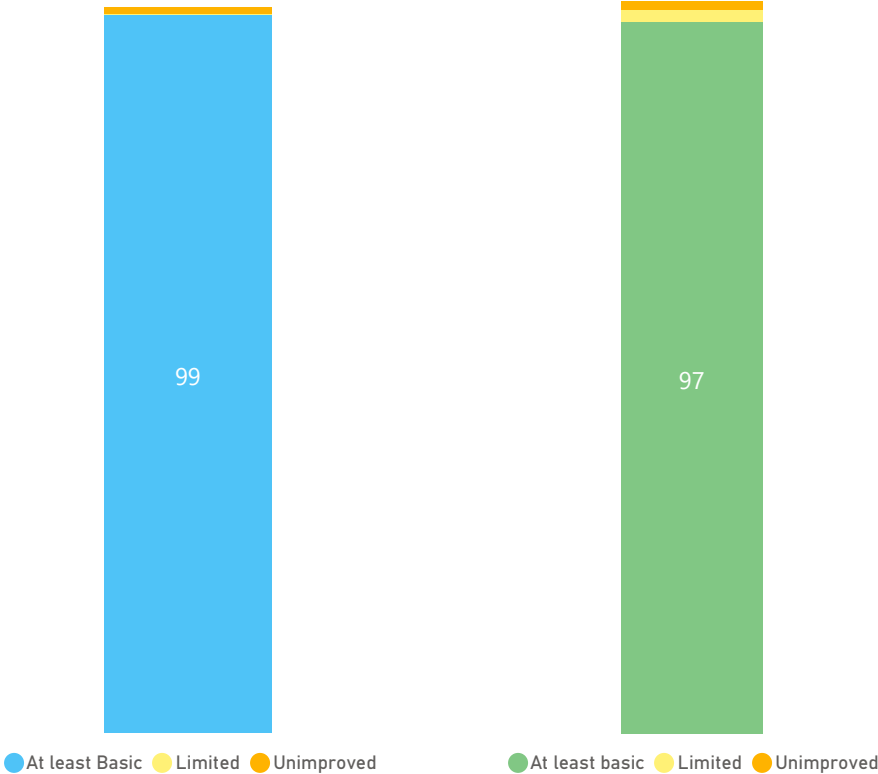
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene
2022

Household coverage (%)		2022
At least basic drinking water		99
At least basic sanitation		97

Household Drinking

Sanitation

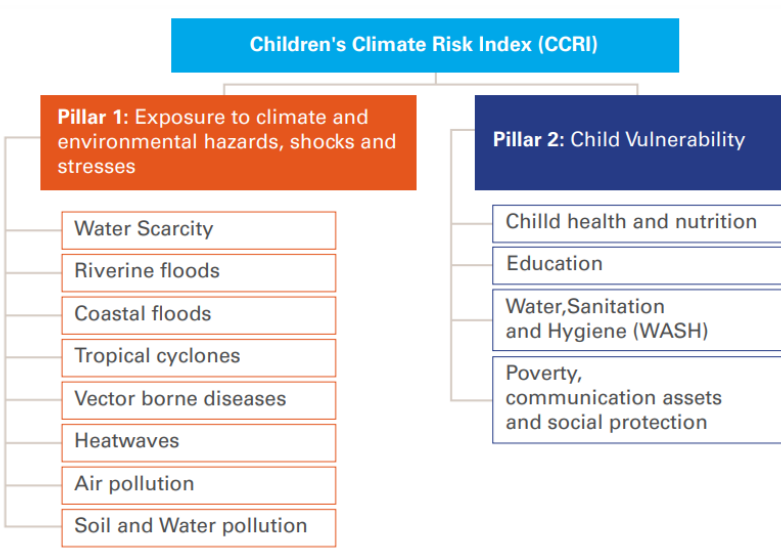


School coverage (%)			2019	2023
Basic drinking water			99	100
Basic sanitation			33	

Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator		2020
Water Stress		Critical

Indicator		2020
Children's Climate and Environment Risk Index		Medium-High
Child vulnerability		Low-Medium
Climate and environmental shocks		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: Jordan has data on 38 of the 48 child related SDGs (79% 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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