

# THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN SAUDI ARABIA

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024



# Factsheet on the situation of Children in Saudi Arabia

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 Saudi Arabia, 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
- (2) Right to health and healthcare
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- (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

- Saudi Arabia is a **high income economy**. The GDP per capita reached -2% in 2023, down from 6% in 2022.
- Children represented **one-third** of the population in 2023.
- The country has made major progress in terms of reducing child mortality, achieving **nearly a 70% reduction** between 2000 and 2022.
- Almost all children had received 3 doses of the DTP vaccine and 2 doses of measles vaccine in 2023, with **coverage rates of 99% for both**.
- About **one in ten** children were stunted, while slightly more than one in ten were overweight in 2022.
- Almost one-third of youth aged 15 to 24 participated in the labor force in 2022, with an **unemployment rate of 16%** and a **quarter** of the unemployed being female.
- **More than three-quarters** of the population in Saudi Arabia were covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2020.
- The level of water stress was **critical** while the children's climate risk index was classified as **medium-high** in 2020.

## Disclaimer

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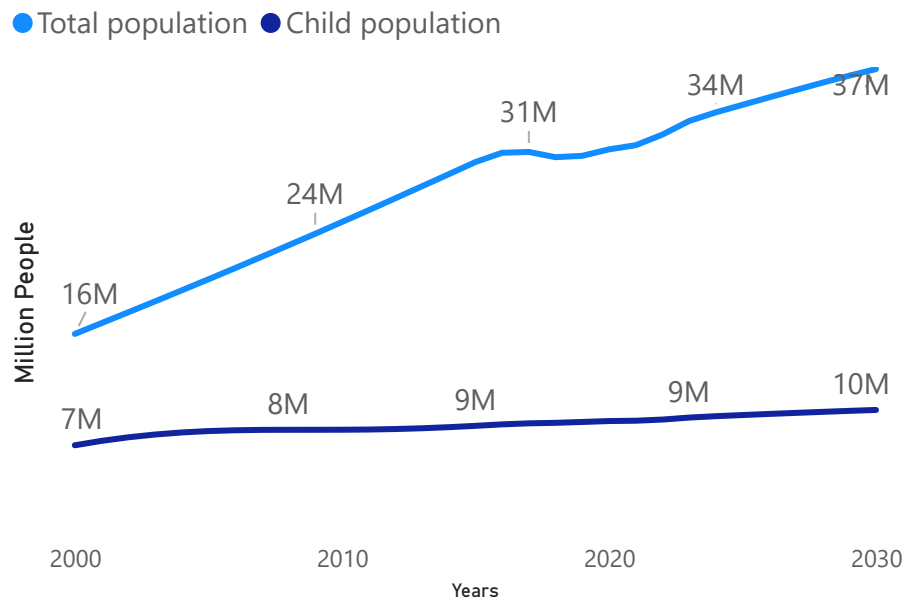


# Demography and Economy

## Demography

% of the population		2023
Population under age 5		7.9
Population under age 18		28.4
Adolescent population (10-19)		15.1
Number of births per year (in thousands)		2023
Number of births		546
Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years		2023
Total fertility rate		2

### Population Trends and Projections (2000-2030)



Total population  
2023

**33M**

Child population  
2023

**9M**

Population growth rate  
(annual % change)  
2023

**2.4**

Urban population (%)  
2023

**85**

Refugees & asylum seekers (% of total population)  
2023

**0.001**

% of children (0-17) years amongst refugee population  
2023

**37.7**

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

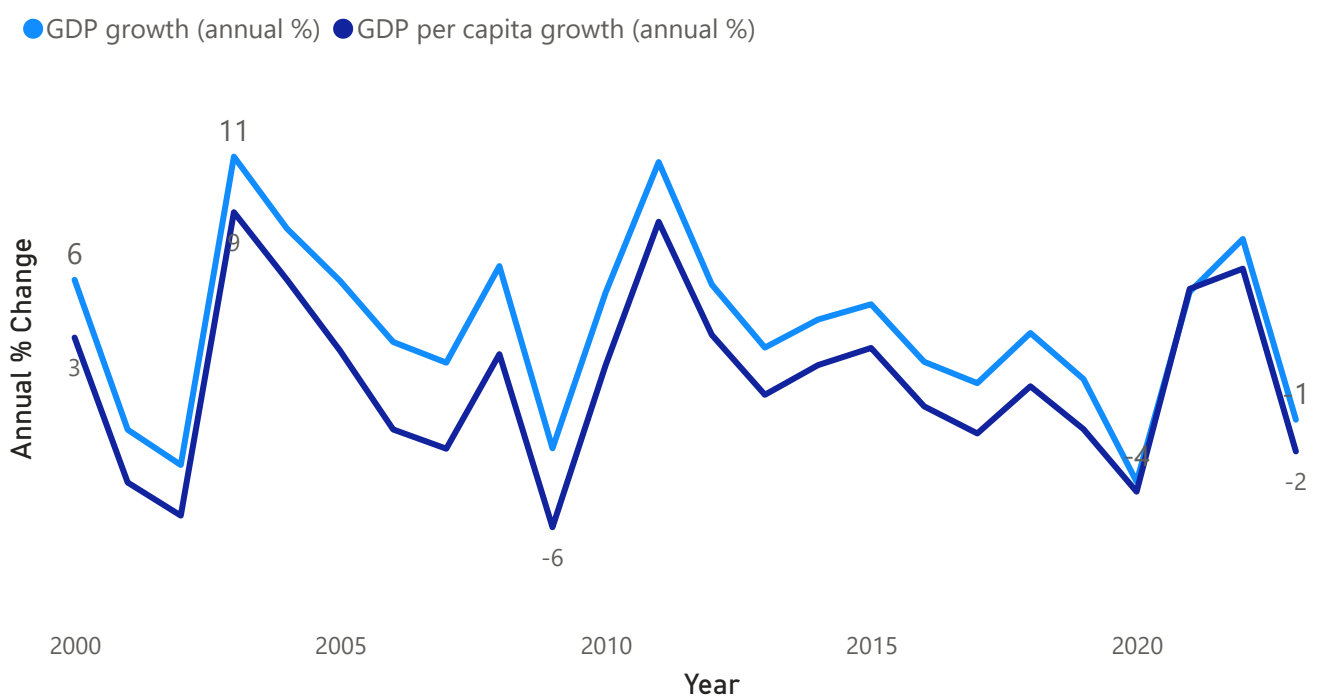
**No Data**

## Economy

### Annual GDP and GDP per Capita Growth (2000-2023)

World Bank 2023/2024 Income classification  
**High-income**

Indicator	2022
GDP per capita (current US\$)	30447.9
Indicator	2022
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	2.5





## Mortality

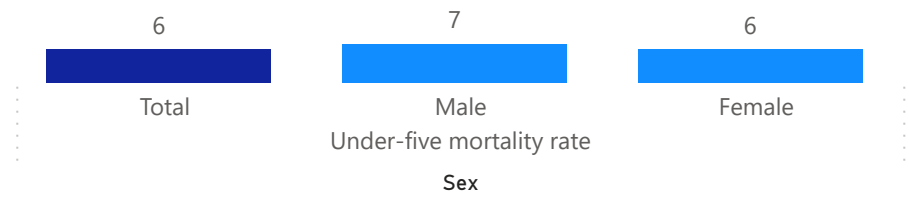
### Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	12	3
Infant mortality rate	19	5
Under-five mortality rate	22	6

Deaths per 1000 live births

Under-five deaths  
Under-five deaths

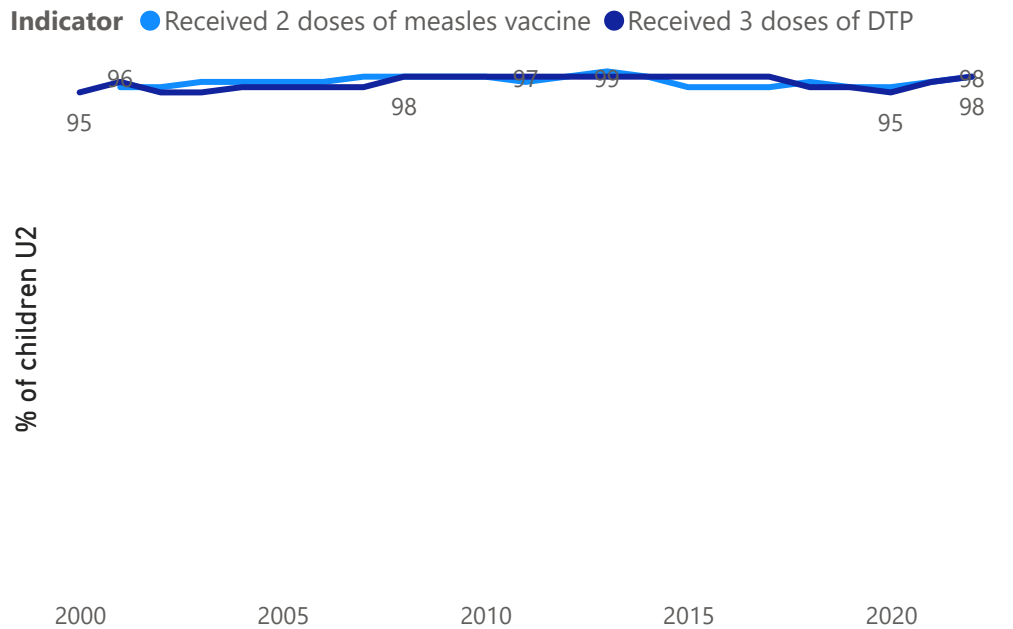
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## Maternal and Child Health

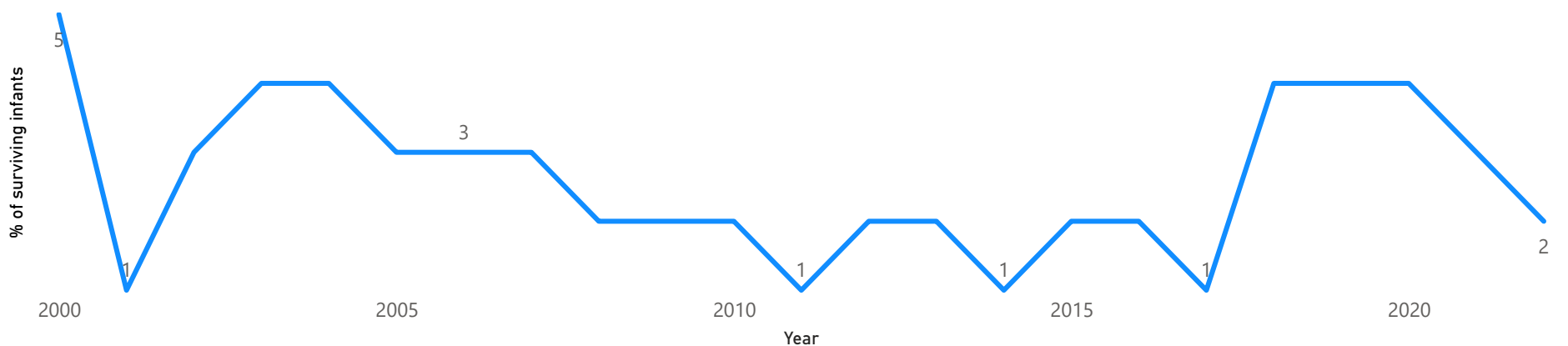
### Trend of immunisation among children (0-2) years 2022

Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, with a live birth in the last 2 years)	2019
Antenatal care 4+ visits	80
Institutional deliveries	99
Skilled birth attendant	95



Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years)	2022
Received 1st dose of DTP	98
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	98
Received 3 doses of DTP	98

### Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)





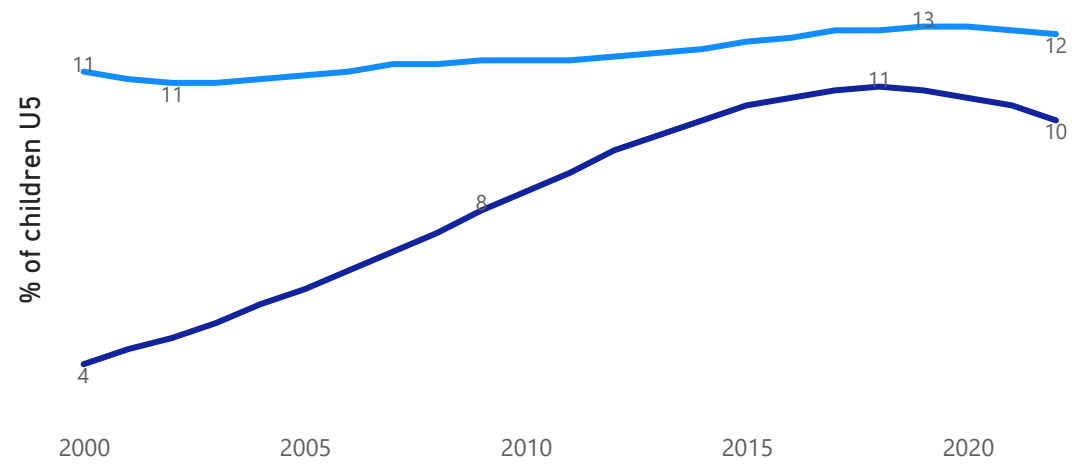
## Right to proper nutrition

### Nutrition

% of Children (U5)	2022
Overweight, Modeled Estimates	10
Stunting, Modeled Estimates	12

#### Nutrition indicators trend (Modelled estimates)

Indicator ● Overweight, Modeled Estimates ● Stunting, Modeled Estimates



#### Inequalities in Stunting (Latest)

NA

#### Overweight Inequalities (Latest)

NA



## Education, Training and Employment

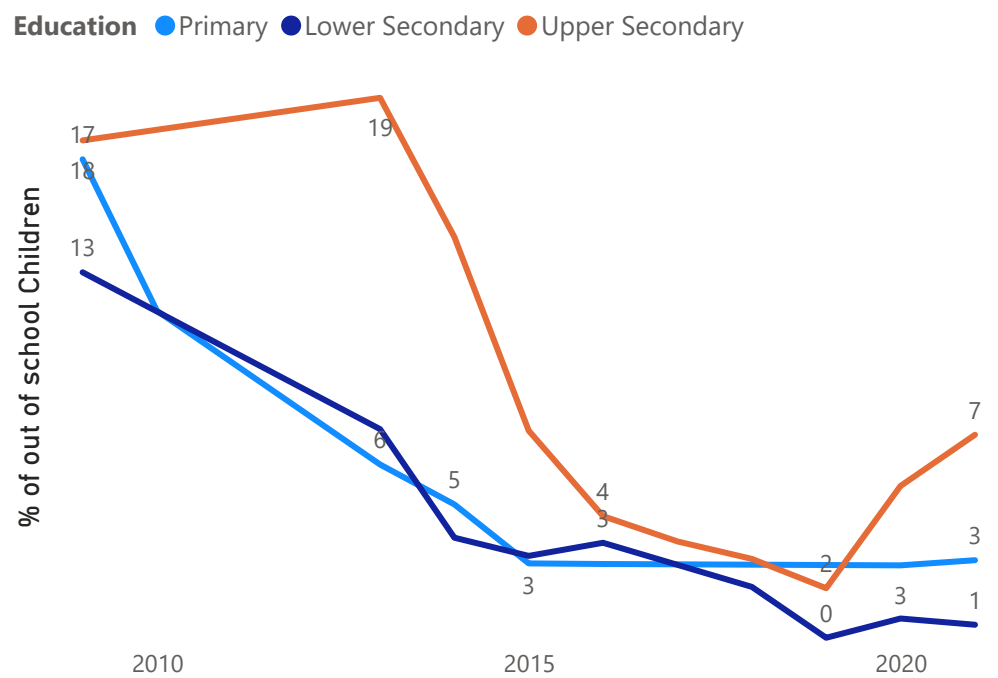
School net attendance by education level (% of children of the relevant age group)	Year
Pre-Primary	No Data
Primary	No Data
Lower Secondary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

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

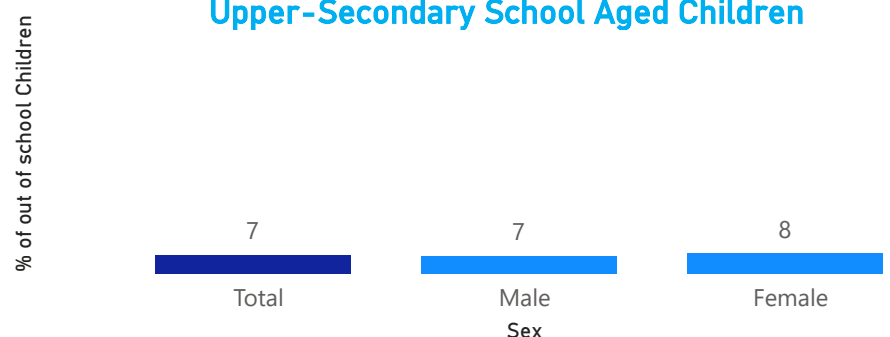
Out-of-school children by educational level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	2021
Primary	2.8
Lower Secondary	0.5
Upper Secondary	7.2

Reading/ Math proficiency	2019
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics	23.0
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading	No Data

### Trends in Out-of-School Children

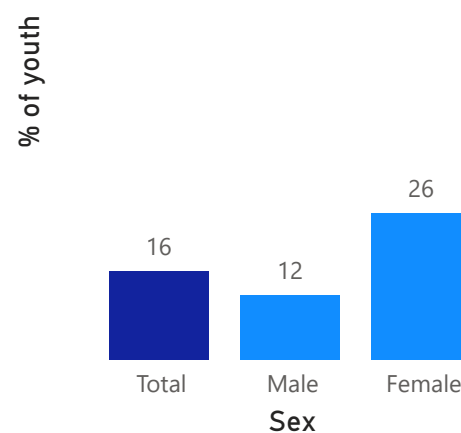


### Inequalities in Out of School Children of Upper-Secondary School Aged Children



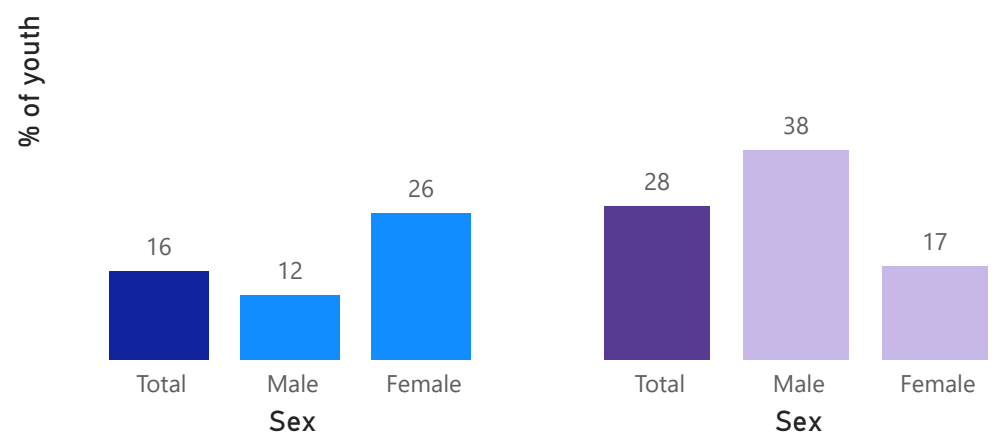
### Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2022



### Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)

2022



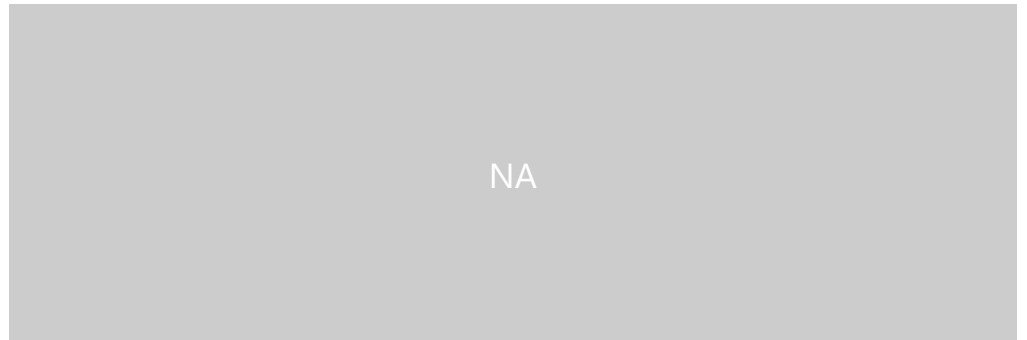
Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex	2023
Total	17.0
Male	13.3
Female	21.5



## Violence

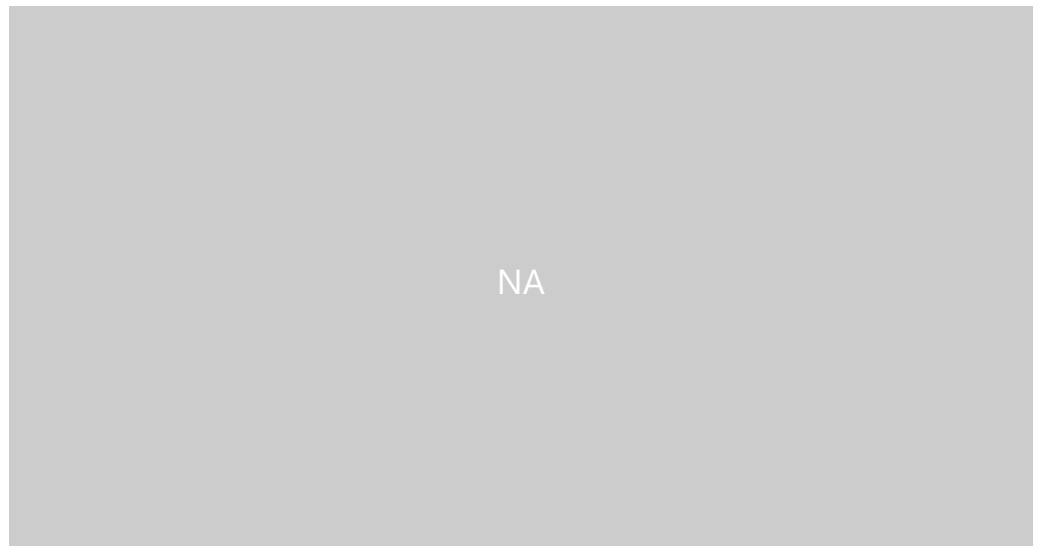
### Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline (Latest)

Violent child discipline (% of children aged 1-14 years)	Year
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Violent Child Discipline</b>	
Total	No Data
Male	No Data
Female	No Data



### Inequalities in Child Marriage before 18 (Latest)

Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 years)	Year
Married before 15	No Data
Married before 18	No Data



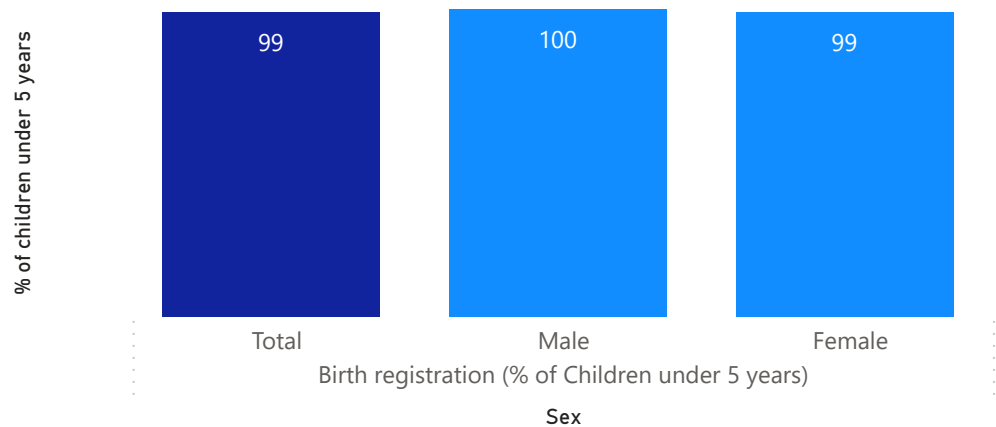
Child labour (% of children aged 5-17 years)	Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Child labour	No Data

## Birth Registration

### Inequalities in Birth Registration

2018

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years)	2018
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Birth registration (% of Children under 5 years)</b>	
Total	99
Male	100
Female	99



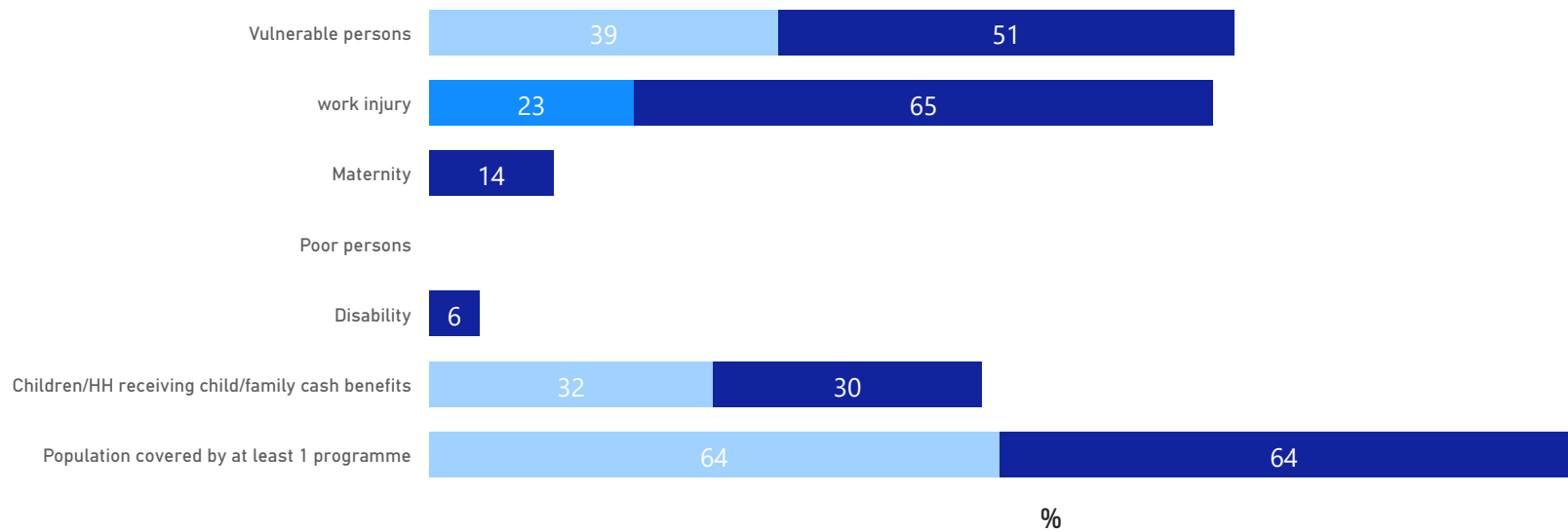


# Right to equitable chance in life

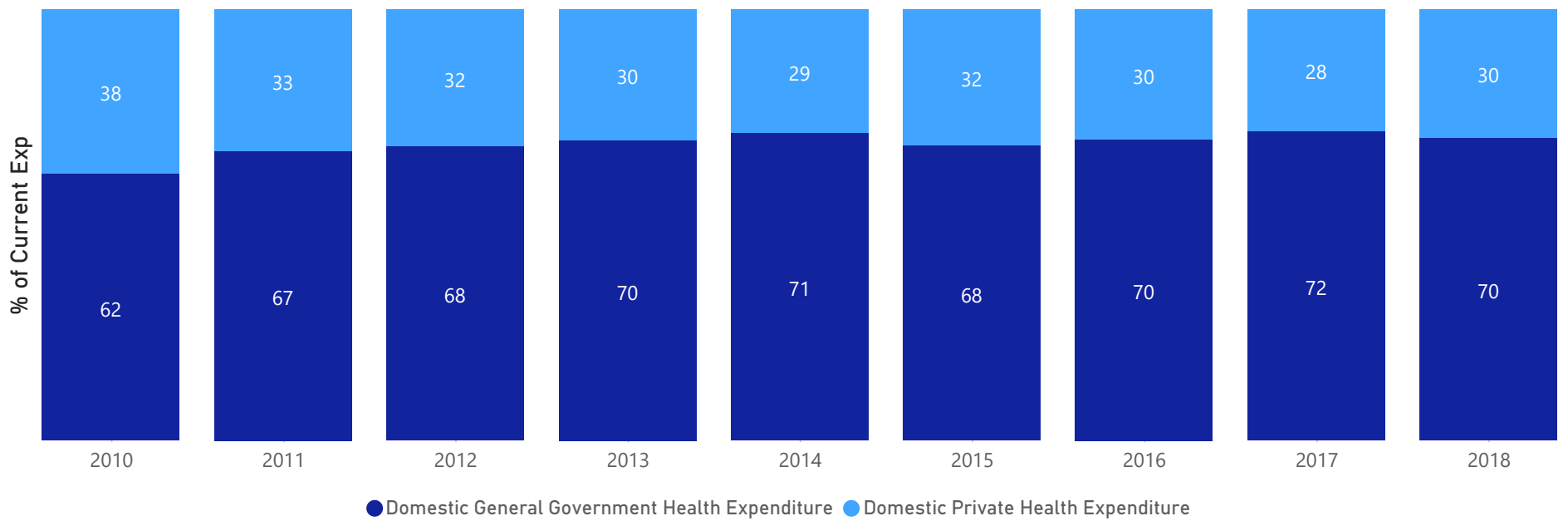
## Public Expenditure on Essential services

### Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2022



### Changes in the Composition of Domestic Health Expenditure



Government expenditure on health % of GDP  
2018

4.0

Government expenditure on education % of GDP  
2020

7.8

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP  
2019

5.3



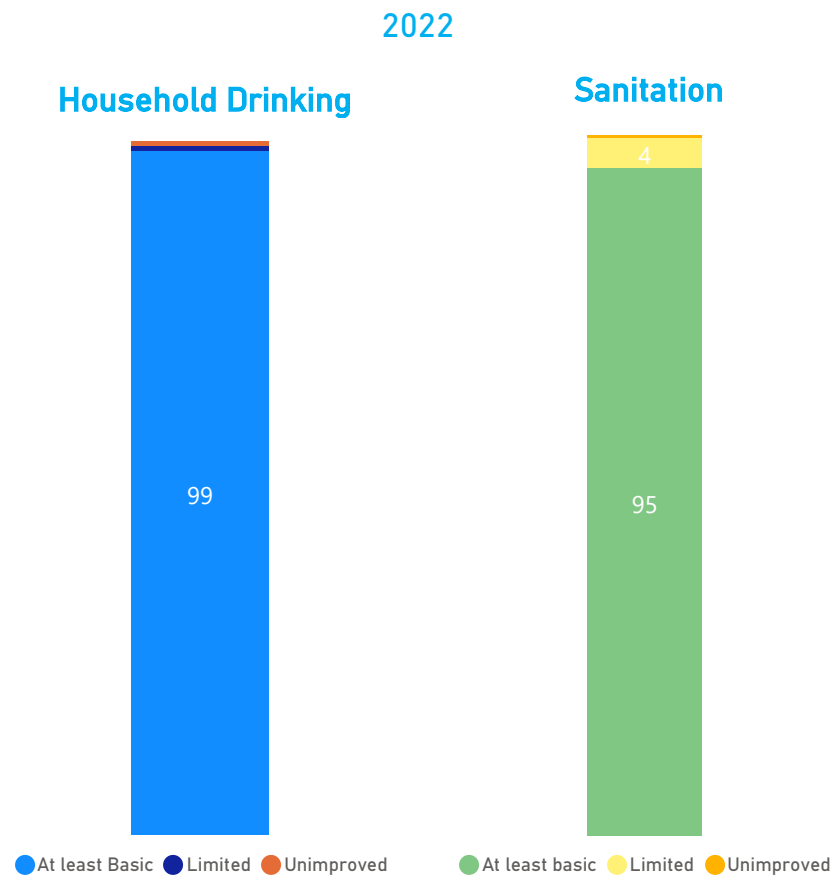
## Right to a clean and safe environment

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

Household coverage (%)	2022
At least basic drinking water	99
At least basic sanitation	95

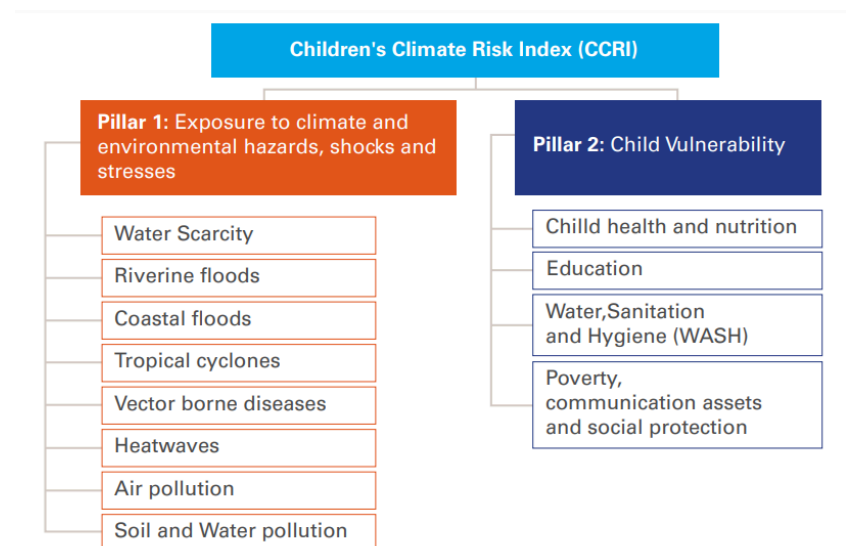
School coverage (%)	2023
Basic drinking water	100
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	100
Basic sanitation	100



### Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator	2020
SDG 6.4.2. Water Stress	Critical

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



\*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:** Saudi Arabia has data on 27 of the 48 child related SDGs (56% 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 \(JME\)](#).

### Education, Training and Employment :

- International Labor Organization (ILO). [ILOSTAT](#)
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics ([UIS](#)) for education data.

**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](https://data.unicef.org)) or contact:

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