

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN

IN KUWAIT

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024



Factsheet on the situation of Children in Kuwait

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 Kuwait, 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

- Kuwait is a **high income economy**. Although the GDP per capita was impacted by COVID-19, it quickly recovered, reaching a **growth rate of 8%** in 2022. However, in 2023, it fell to -3%.
- Children represented **almost a quarter** of the population in 2023.
- The country has a **low sustained child mortality rates** and all birth deliveries were done by skilled birth attendant in 2019.
- Most of the children had received 3 doses of the DTP vaccine and 2 doses of measles vaccine in 2022 (**96% and 94%** respectively).
- **About one-fifth of the children** at the end of primary level achieved at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics in 2019.
- Almost a **quarter** of youth aged 15 to 24 participated in the labour force in 2022 with higher values for men (33%) than women (17%)
- About **one-fifth** of the population in Kuwait were covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2022.
- The level of water stress was **critical** while the children's climate risk index was classified as **low-medium** in 2020.

Disclaimer

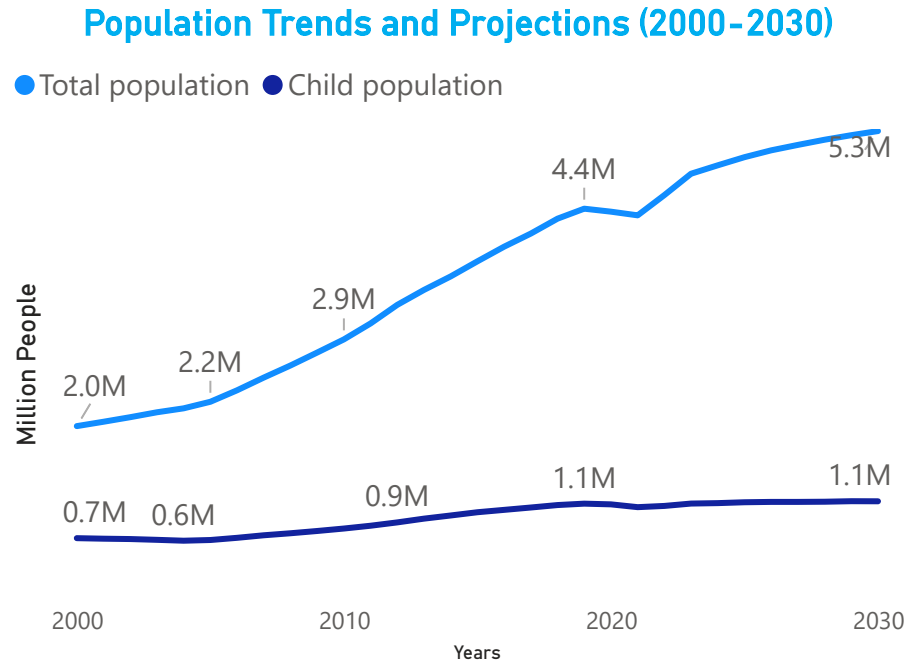
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Demography and Economy

Demography

% of the population		2023
Population under age 5	5.5	
Population under age 18	22.2	
Adolescent population (10-19)	12.2	
Number of births per year (in thousands)		2023
Number of births	49	
Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years		2023
Total fertility rate	2	



Total population
2023

5M

Child population
2023

1M

Population growth rate
(annual % change)
2023

1.9

Urban population (%)
2023

100

Refugees & asylum seekers (% of total population)
2023

0.01

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

28.0

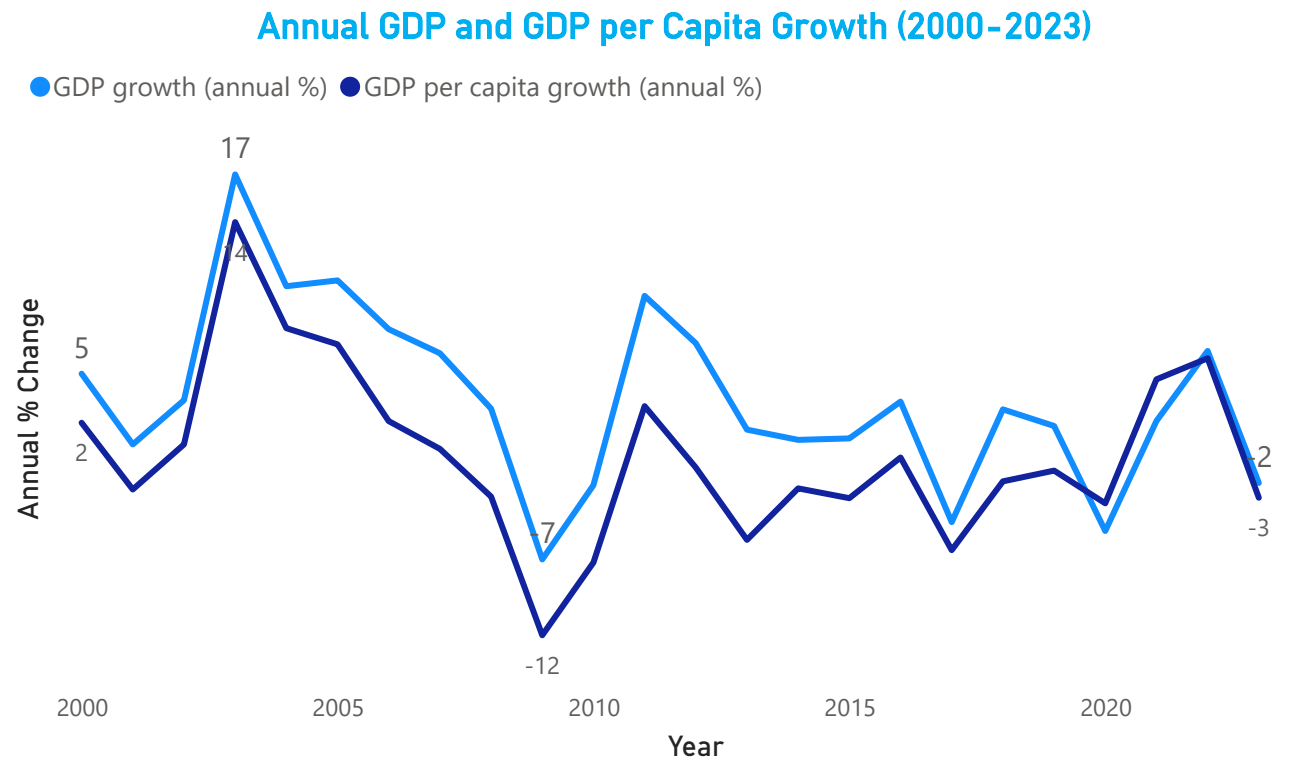
% of children (2-17) years with functional difficulties

No Data

Economy

World Bank 2023/2024 Income classification
High-income

Indicator	2023
GDP per capita (current US\$)	37533.2
Indicator	2023
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	3.6





Mortality

Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate

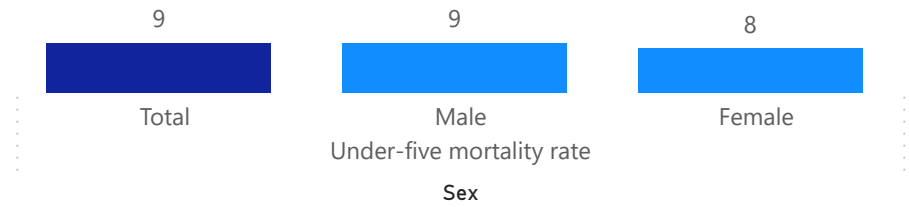
Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	7	5
Infant mortality rate	11	7
Under-five mortality rate	13	9

Deaths per 1000 live births

Under-five deaths
Under-five deaths

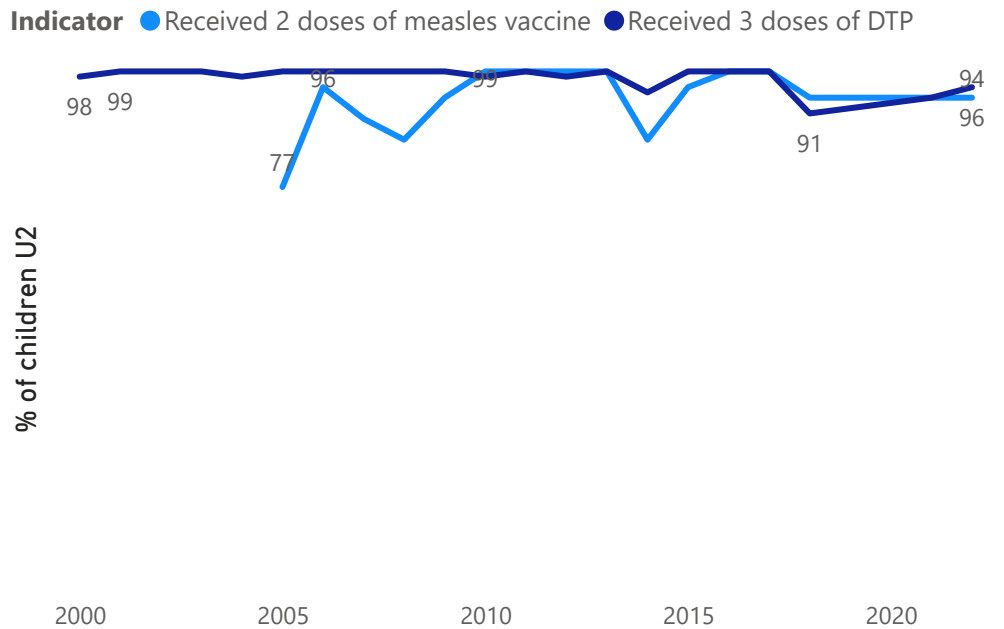
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Maternal and Child Health

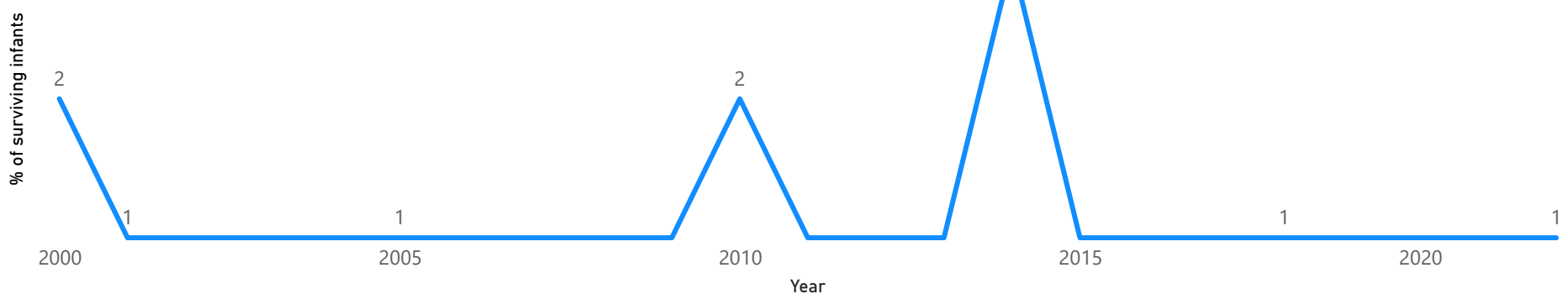
Trend of immunisation among children (0-2) years 2022

Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, with a live birth in the last 2 years)	2019
Skilled birth attendant	100



Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years)	2022
Received 1st dose of DTP	99
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	94
Received 3 doses of DTP	96

Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)





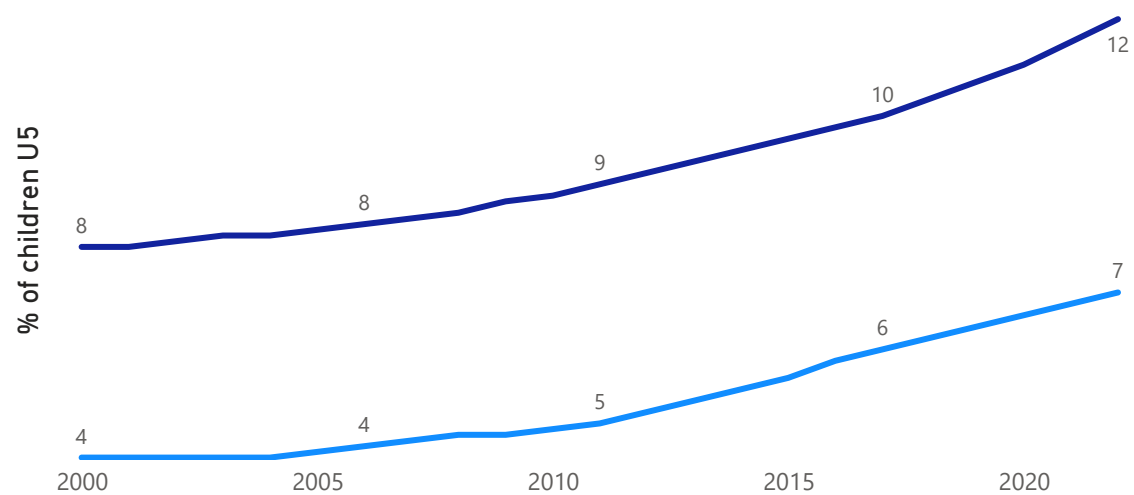
Right to proper nutrition

Nutrition

% of Children (U5)	2022
Overweight, Modeled Estimates	12
Stunting, Modeled Estimates	7

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

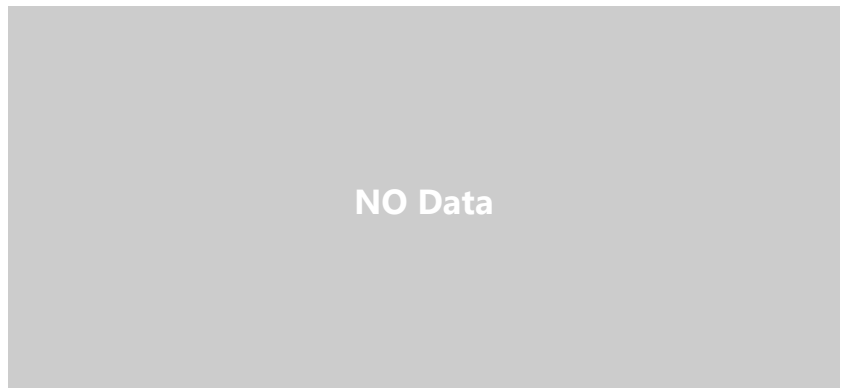
School completion by education level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	Year
Lower Secondary	No Data
Primary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

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

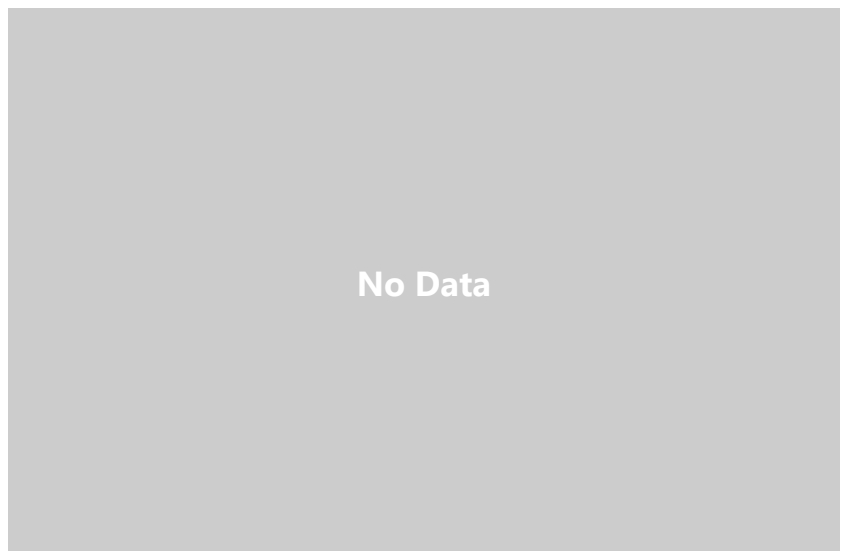
Reading/ Math proficiency	2019
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics	21.0
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading	No Data

Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex	Year
Total	No Data
Male	No Data
Female	No Data

Net Attendance Rate by Gender

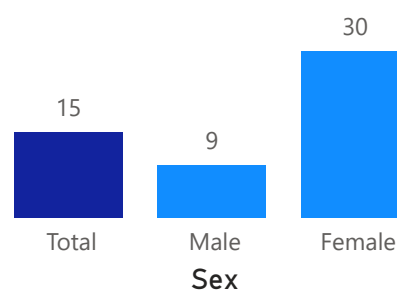


Inequalities in Out of School Children of Upper-Secondary School Aged Children



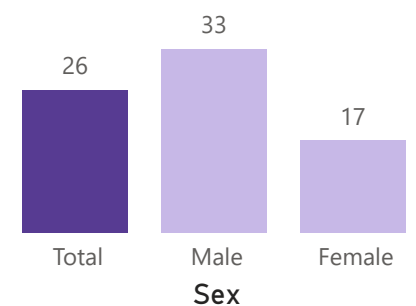
Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2016



Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)

2016

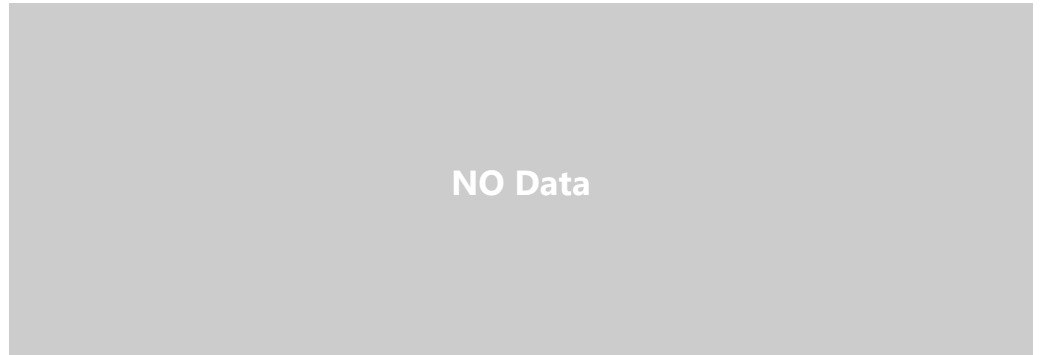




Violence

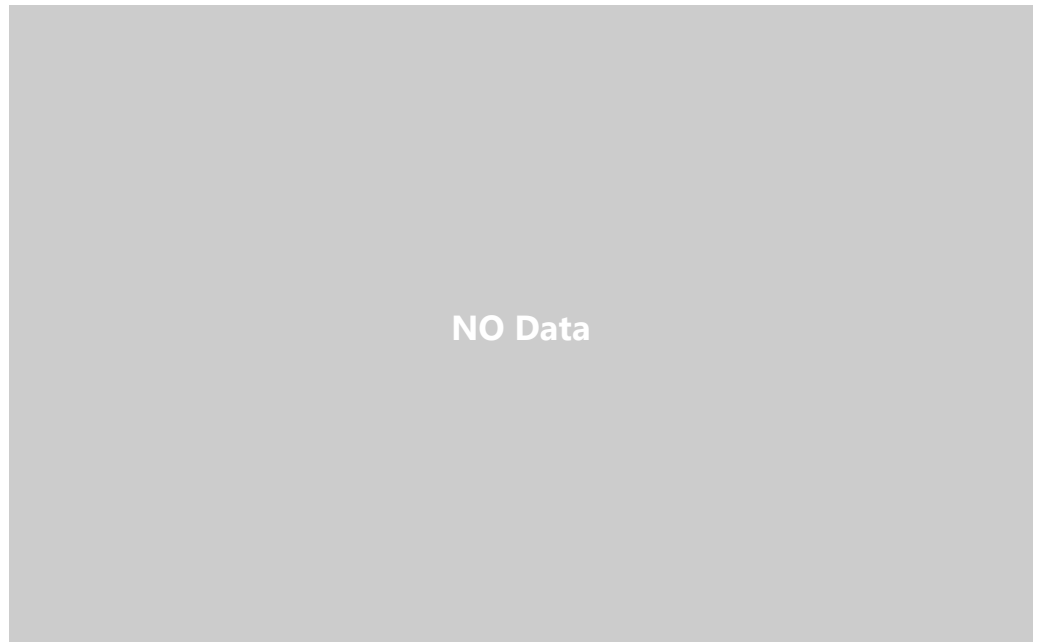
Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline (Latest)

Violent child discipline (% of children aged 1-14 years)	Year
<input type="checkbox"/> 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)	Year
Married before 15	No Data
Married before 18	No Data

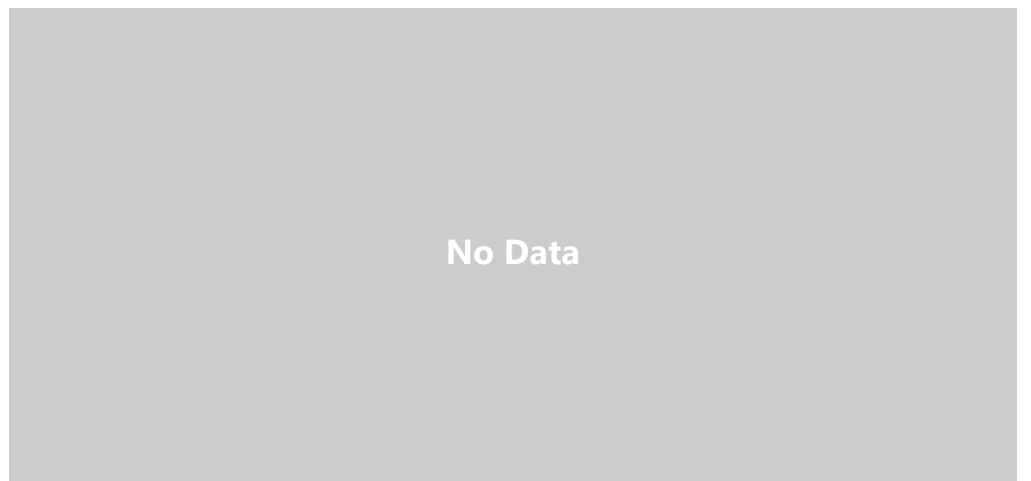


Child labour (% of children aged 5-17 years)	Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Child labour	No Data

Birth Registration

Inequalities in Birth Registration

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years)	Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Birth registration (% of Children under 5 years)	
Total	No Data
Male	No Data
Female	No Data



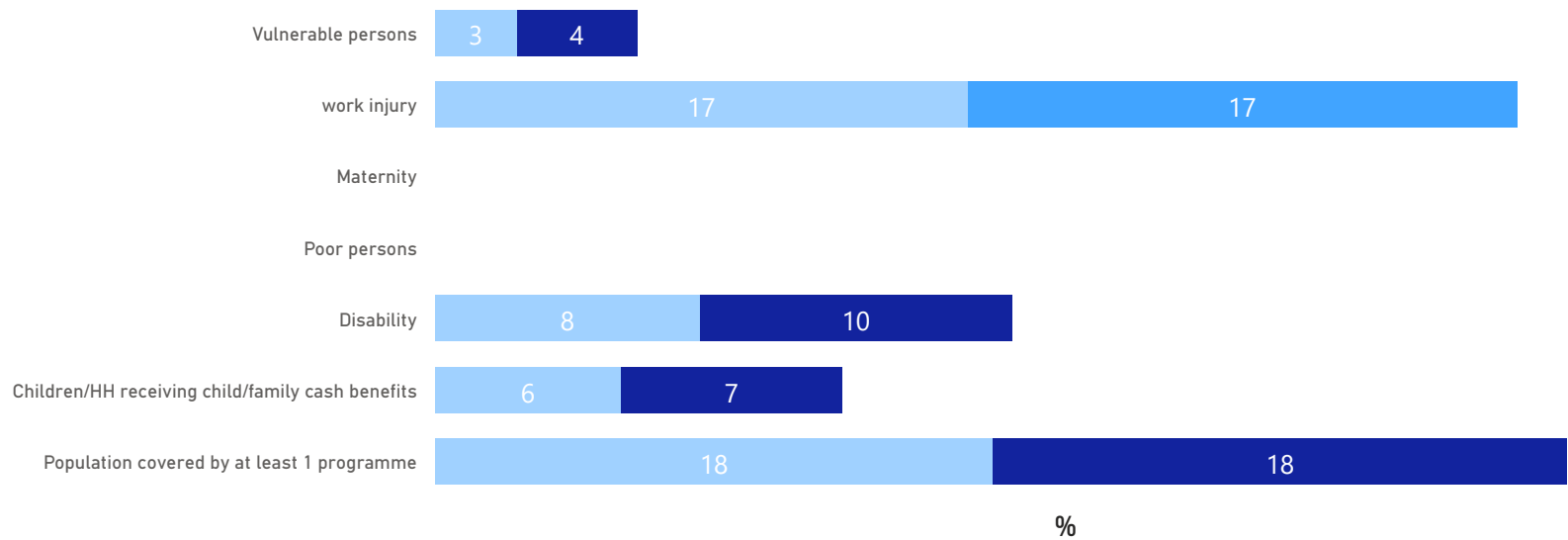


Right to equitable chance in life

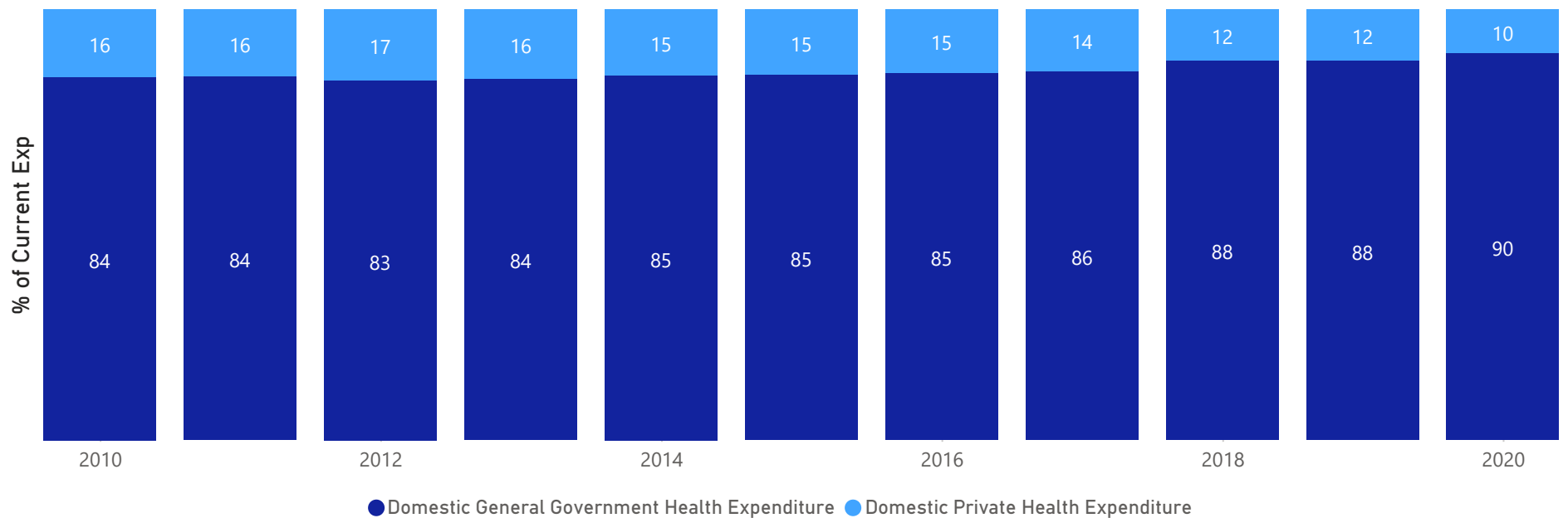
Public Expenditure on Essential services

Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period ● 2019 ● 2021 ● 2022



Changes in the Composition of Domestic Health Expenditure



Government expenditure on health % of GDP
2018

4.4

Government expenditure on education % of GDP
2020

6.6

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP
2015

7.0



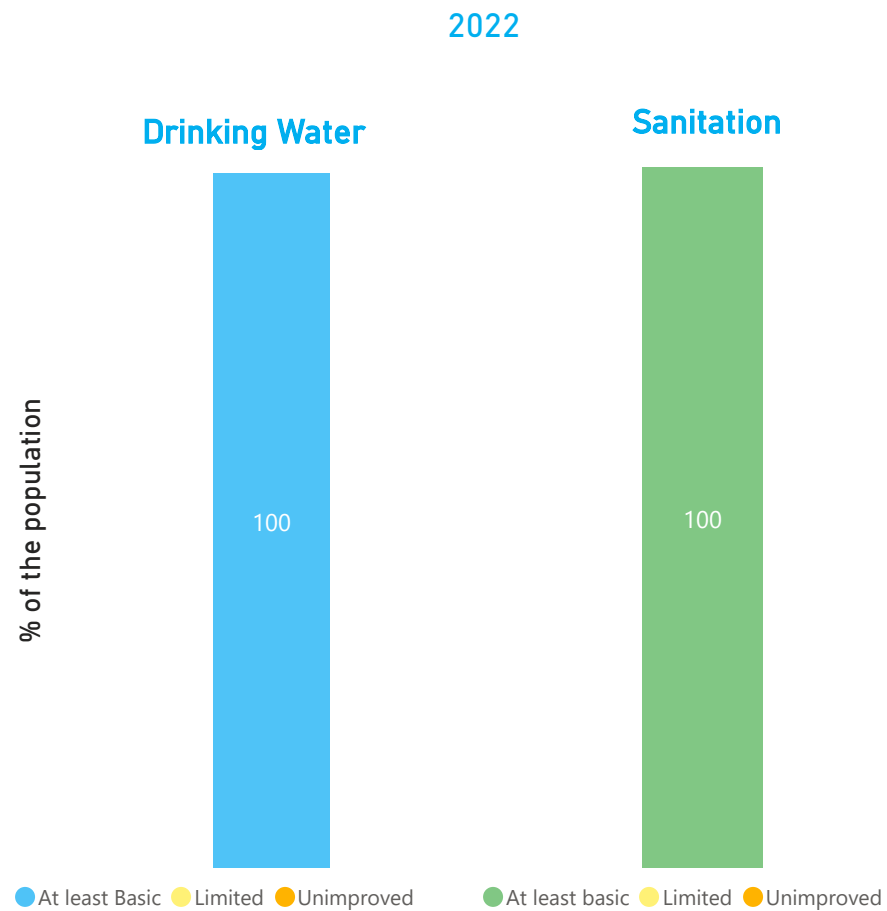
Right to a clean and safe environment

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

Household coverage (%)	2022
At least basic sanitation	100
At least basic drinking water	100

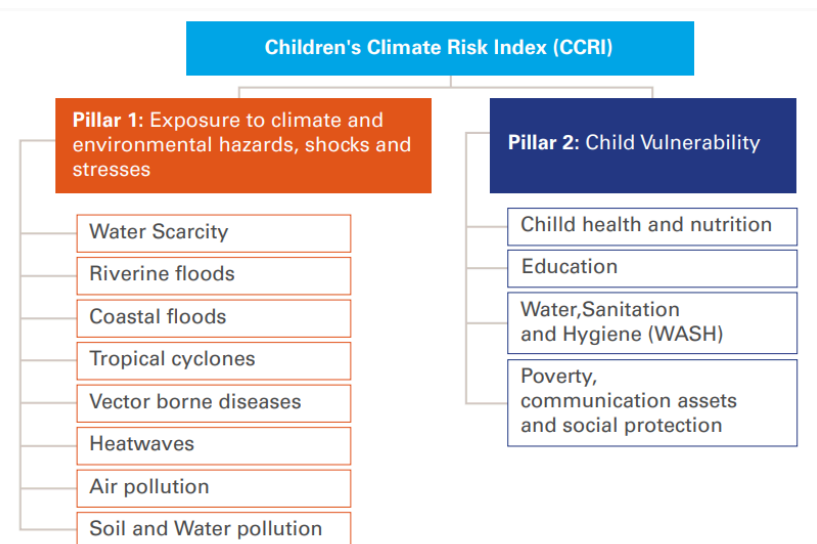
School coverage (%)	2023
Basic drinking water	100
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	100
Basic sanitation	100



Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator	2020
SDG 6.4.2. Water Stress	Critical

CCRI	2020
Children's Climate and Environment Risk Index	Low-Medium
Climate and environmental shocks	Medium-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: Kuwait has data on 24 of the 48 child related SDGs (48% 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](#), National Household Surveys estimates.

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

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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