



**THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN
IN PALESTINE**

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024

Factsheet on the situation of Children in Palestine

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 Palestine, 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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Palestine is a **lower-middle income** economy. The GDP per capita growth has declined by 8% in 2023, following a 2% decrease in 2022.
- Children made up approximately **45%** of Palestine's population in 2023. Internally displaced persons, predominantly from Gaza, accounted for **a third of the total population**, with children representing about half of this group.
- The country has made notable progress in terms of reducing child mortality, achieving **around 50% reduction** between 2000 and 2022.
- In 2023, **88% of children** received three doses of the DTP vaccine, and **89%** received two doses of the measles vaccine, with an **observable increase in the percentage of zero-dose children** between 2022 and 2023.
- About **one-quarter** of youth aged 15 to 24 were not in employment, education, or training in 2022, with females disproportionately affected (**23% males for 33% females**).
- **More than one-third of youth** aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in 2022 with females being more disadvantaged (57% vs 32%).
- Violent child discipline was prevalent, based on 2020 data with **90% of the children** aged 1-14 years experiencing violent forms of discipline.
- **Less than one-fifth** of the population was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2022.
- The level of water stress was **medium** 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)	13.3
Children (0-17 years)	44.7
Adolescents (10-19 years)	22.1

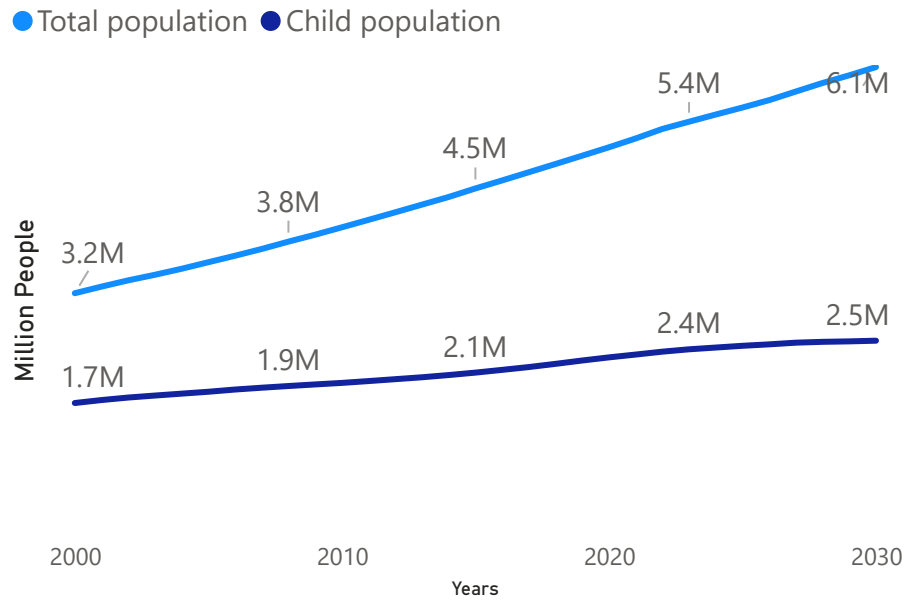
Number of births per year (in thousands) 2023

Number of births	146
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Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years 2023

Total fertility rate	3.3
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Population Trends and Projections (2000-2030)



Total population 2023

2023

5M

Child population 2023

2023

2M

Population growth rate (annual % change)

2023

1.5

Urban population (%)

2023

77.6

Internally displaced (% of total population)

2023

31.6

% of children (0-17) years amongst IDPs

2023

44.6

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

2020

12.3

Economy

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

World Bank 2023/2024 Income classification

Lower middle income

Indicator 2022

GDP per capita (current US\$)	3789.3
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Indicator 2023

Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	5.9
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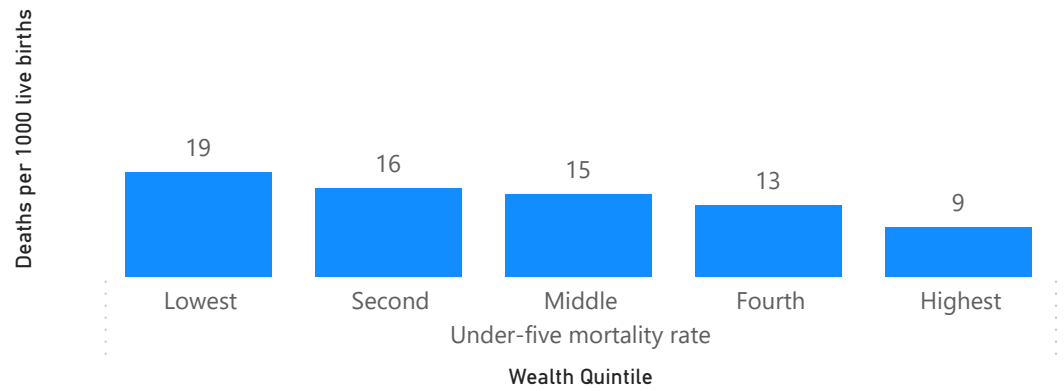
Child Mortality

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	17	9
Infant mortality rate	25	12
Under-five mortality rate	30	14

Under-five deaths
2022

2078

Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate 2022

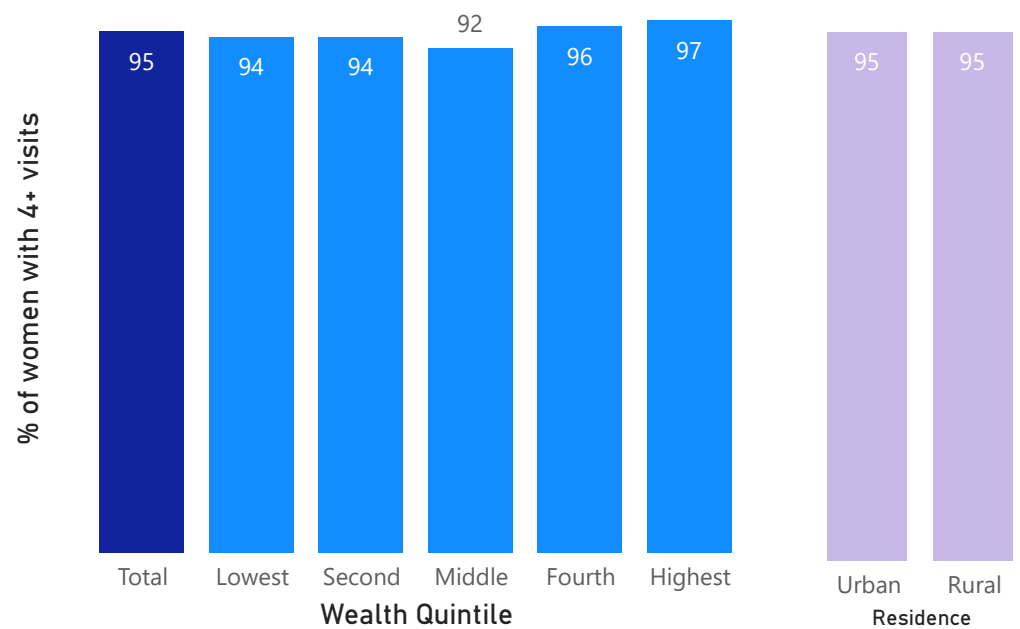


Maternal and Child Health

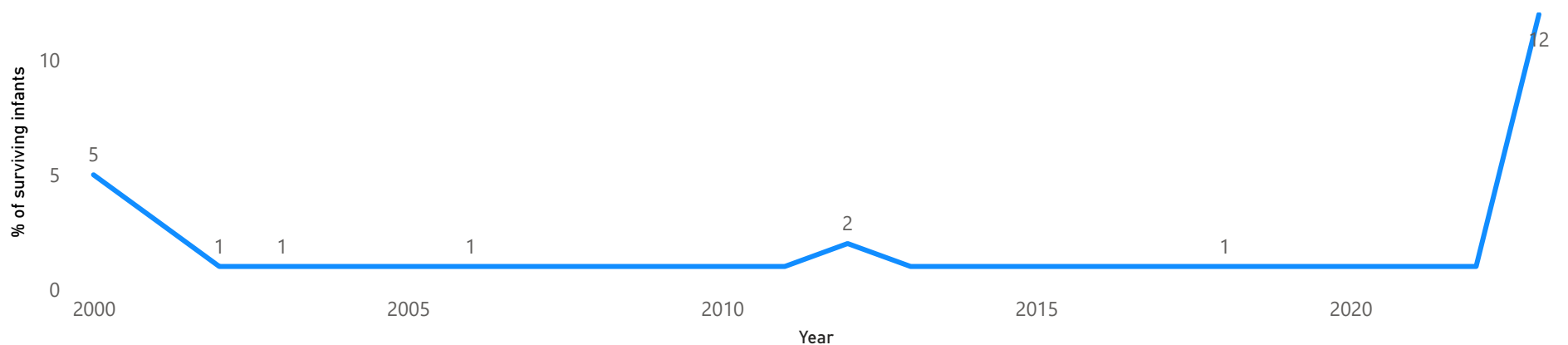
Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, with a live birth in the last 2 years)	2020
Antenatal care 4+ visits	95
Institutional deliveries	99
Skilled birth attendant	100

Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years)	2023
Received 1st dose of DTP	88
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	89
Received 3 doses of DTP	88

Inequalities in Access to Antenatal Care 2020



Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)



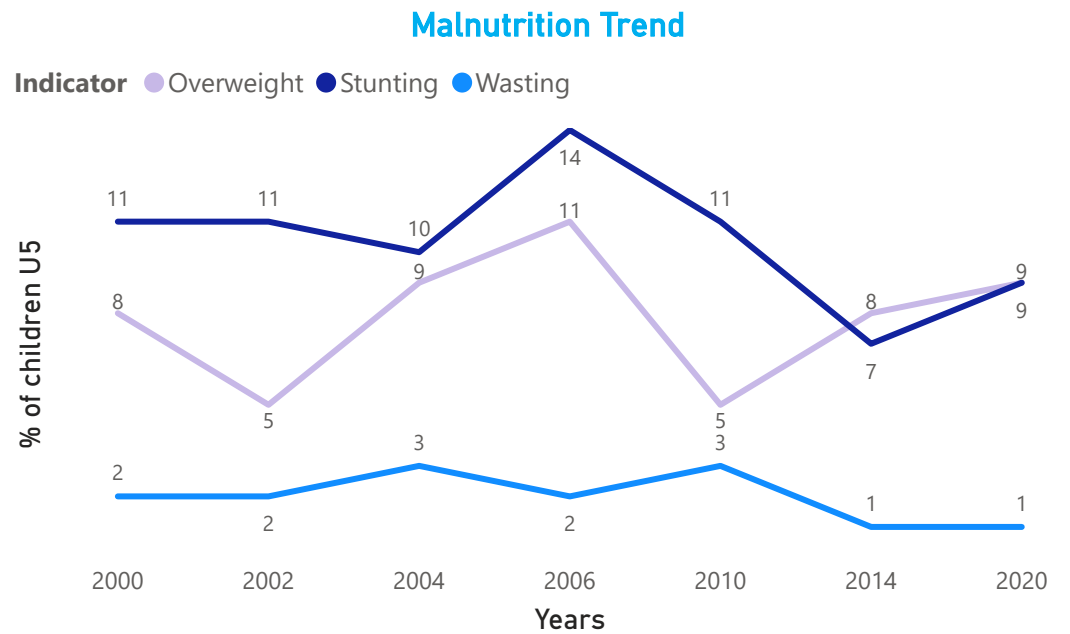


Right to proper nutrition

Nutrition

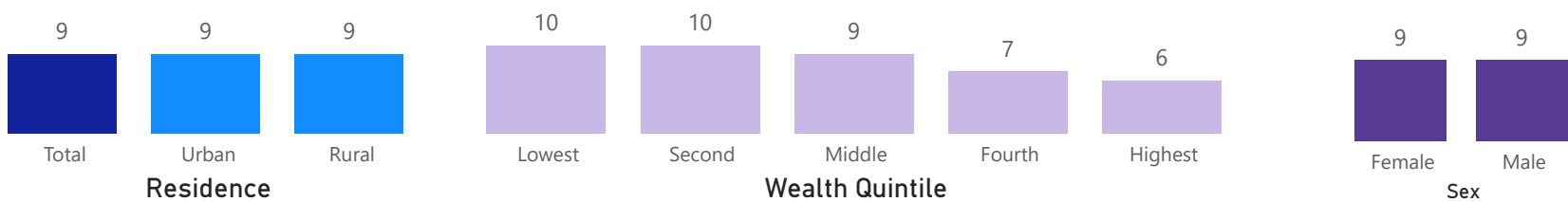
Infant and young child feeding (% of children)	2020
Exclusive breastfeeding (0-5 months)	39
Minimum diet diversity (6 to 23 months)	45

Malnutrition (% of children, under 5 years)	2020
Overweight	9
Stunting	9
Underweight	2
Wasting	1



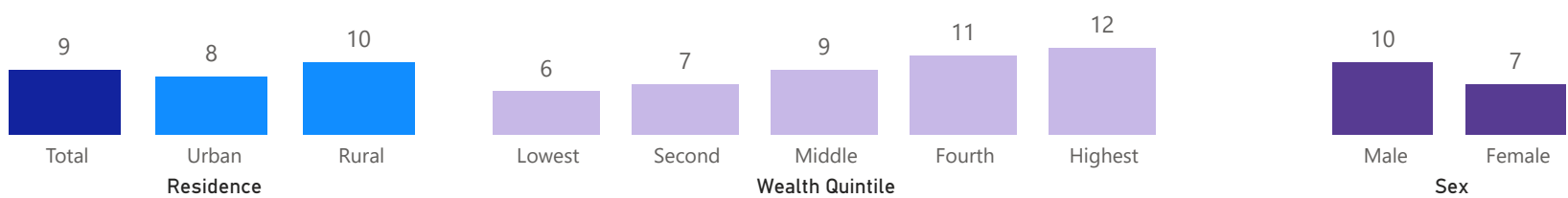
Inequalities in Stunting 2020

% of children under 5 years



Overweight Inequalities 2020

% of children under 5 years





Education, Training and Employment

School net attendance by education level (% of children of the relevant age group)	2020
Pre-Primary	94
Primary	98
Lower Secondary	95
Upper Secondary	71

School completion by education level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	2020
Primary	100
Lower Secondary	86
Upper Secondary	62

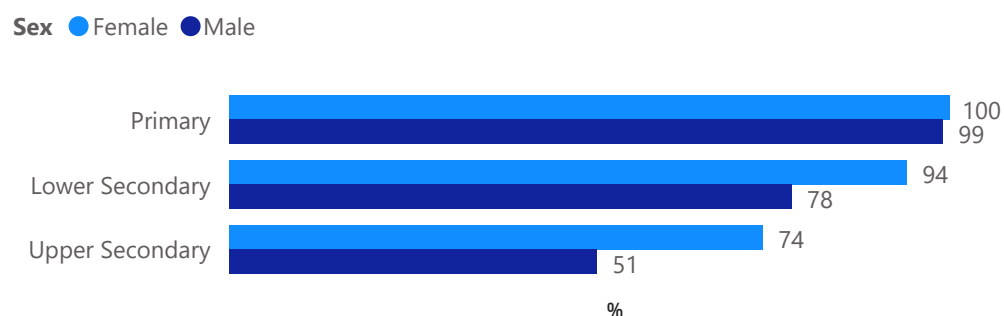
Out-of-school children by educational level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	2020
Primary	1
Lower Secondary	4
Upper Secondary	22

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	28
Male	23
Female	33

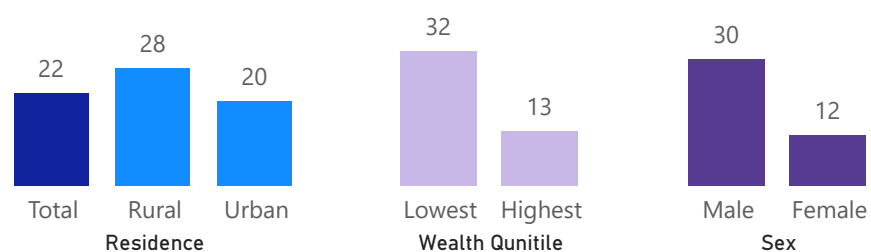
School Completion Rates by sex

2020



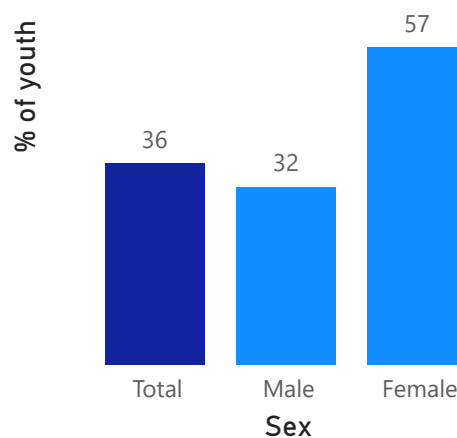
Inequalities in Out of School Children of Upper-Secondary School Aged Children

2020



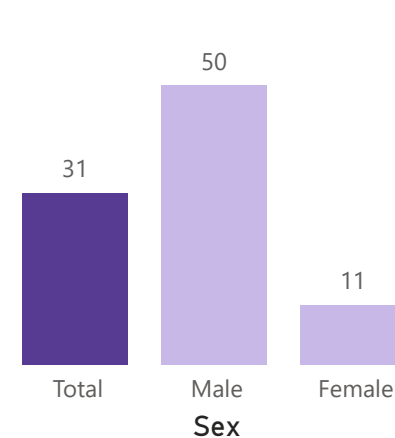
Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2022



Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)

2022





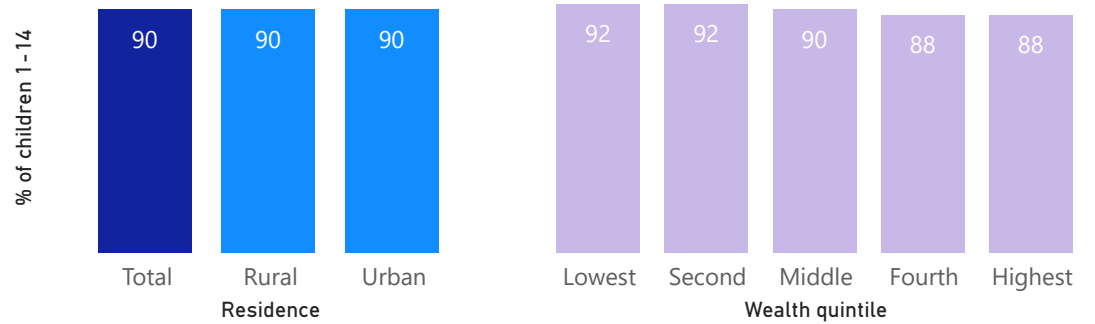
Violence

Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline

2020

Violent child discipline (% of children aged 1-14 years) 2020

Violent Child Discipline	
Total	90
Male	92
Female	88



Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 years) 2020

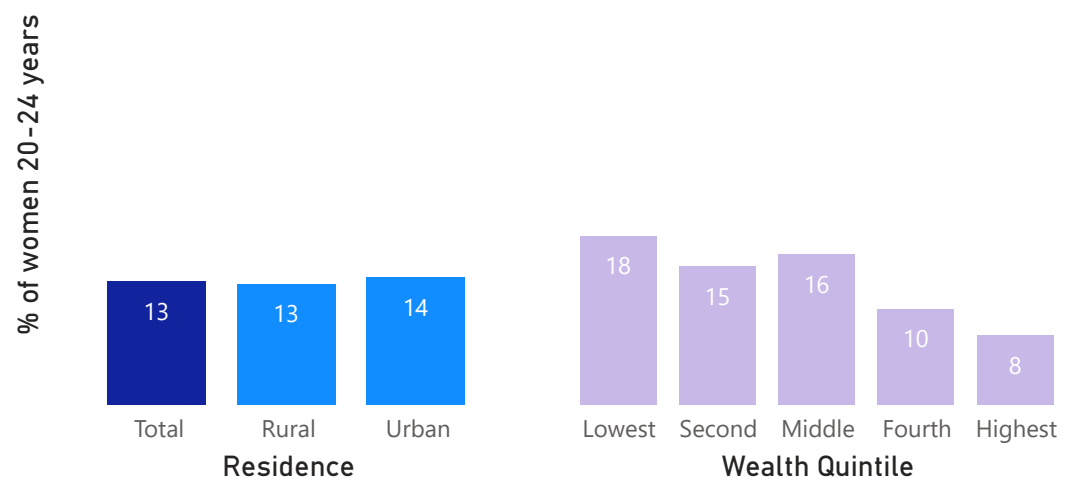
Married before 15	1
Married before 18	13

Inequalities in Child Marriage before 18

2020

Child labour (% of children aged 5-17 years) 2020

Child labour	
Female	5
Male	10
Total	7



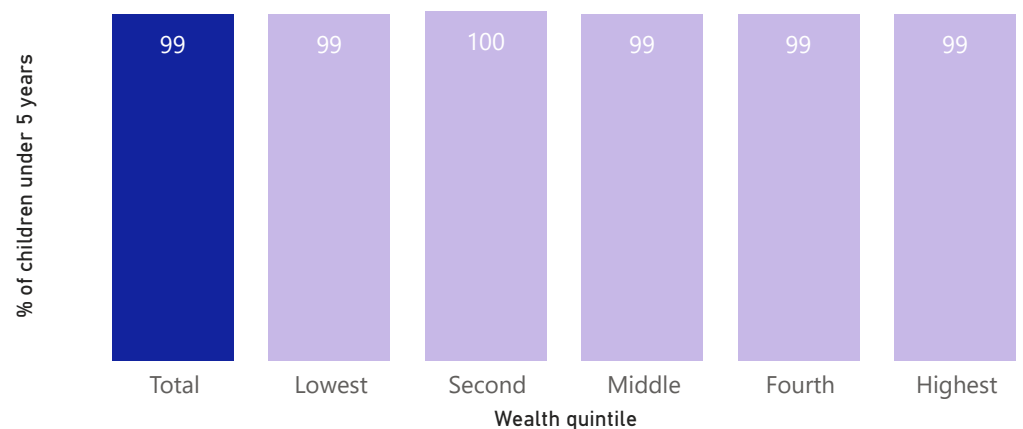
Birth Registration

Inequalities in Birth Registration

2020

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years) 2020

Birth registration	
Total	99
Rural	99
Urban	99





Right to equitable chance in life

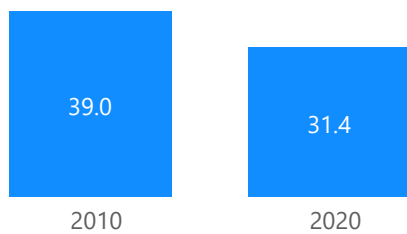
Poverty

Monetary poverty 2020

Children (0-17) living in households with income below the national poverty line (% of all children) **33.5**

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)
1.1	5.0	27.7

Child multidimensional poverty headcount ratio

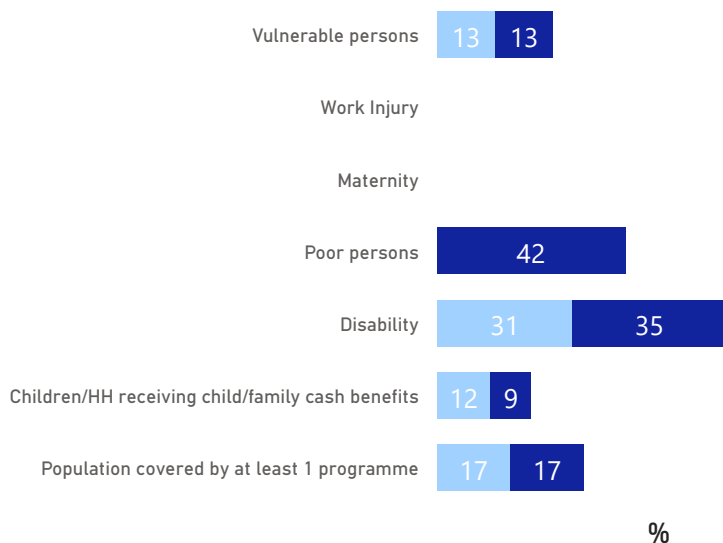


Dimensions of Multidimensional Poverty	Water	Household does not have piped water into dwelling or yard
	Sanitation	Unimproved toilet facility Shared toilet
	Housing	Primitive floor/Type of Household Overcrowding (more than 3 people per room)
	Health	Unskilled birth assistance (0-23 months) Not fully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

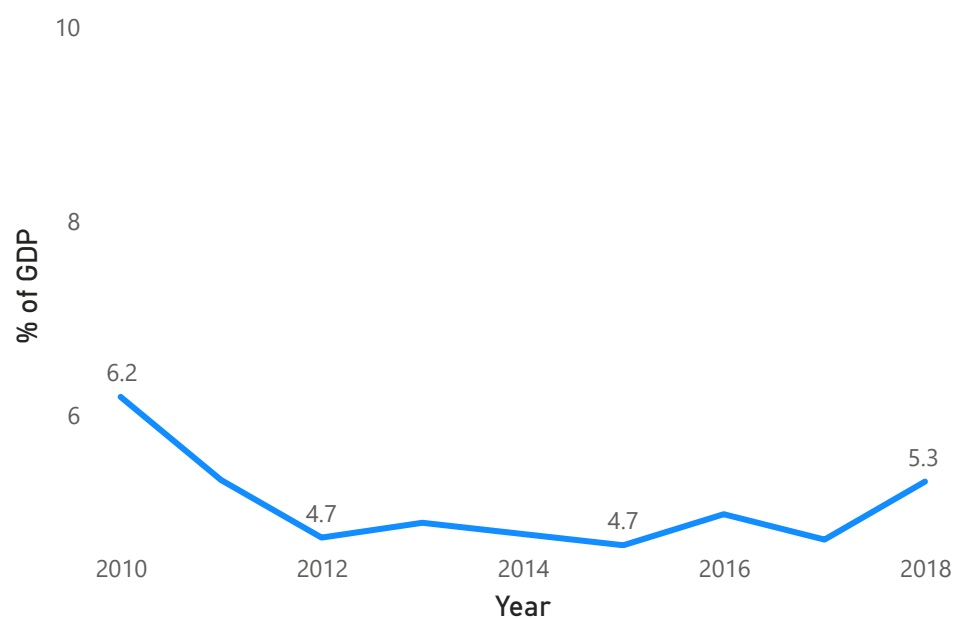
Public Expenditure on Essential services

Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period ● 2019 ● 2022



Government Expenditure on Education Trend



Government expenditure on health % of GDP
2017

5.3

Government expenditure on education % of GDP
2018

5.3

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP
2018

3.3



Right to a clean and safe environment

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

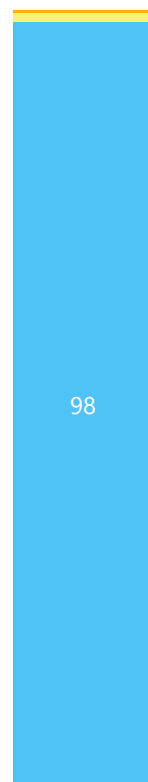
Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

2022

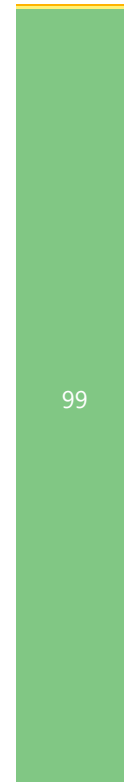
Household coverage (%)	2022
At least basic drinking water	98
At least basic sanitation	99
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	95

School coverage (%)	2021	2023
Basic drinking water	100	100
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	21	No Data
Basic sanitation	96	97

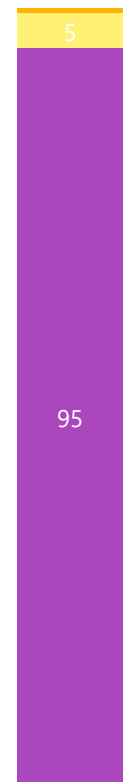
Household Drinking



Sanitation



Hygiene

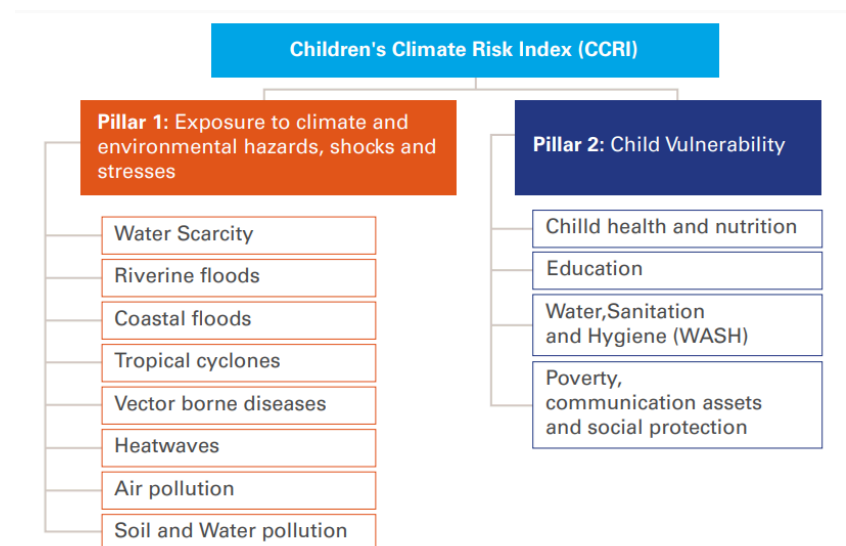


● At least Basic ● Limited ● Unimproved ● At least basic ● Limited ● Unimproved ● Basic ● Limited ● No Facility

Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator	2020
Water Stress	Meduim

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



*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: Palestine has data on 39 of the 48 child related SDGs (81% 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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