



**THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN
IN SYRIA**

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024

Factsheet on the situation of Children in Syria

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 Syria, 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

- Syria is a **low-income** economy. The GDP per capita declined by 1% in 2021.
- Children represented **more than third** of the population in 2023.
- Internally displaced persons represented 11% and **more than 40%** of them were children in 2023.
- **About two-third of the children** had received 3 doses of the DTP vaccine (66%) and 64% received 2 doses of measles vaccine in 2023.
- The level of water stress was **critical** and the children's climate risk index was **medium-high** in 2020.

Disclaimer

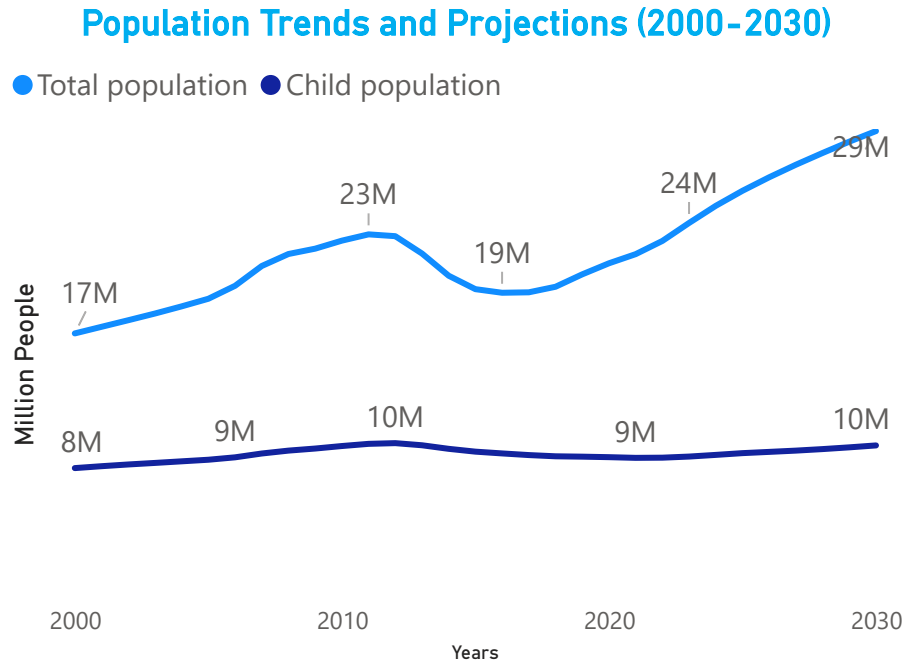
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Demography and Economy

Demography

% of the population		2023
Children (0-4 years)		9.6
Children (0-17 years)		37.6
Adolescents (10-19 years)		24.0
Number of births per year (in thousands)		2023
Number of births		522
Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years		2023
Total fertility rate		2.7



Total population
2023

24M

Child population
2023

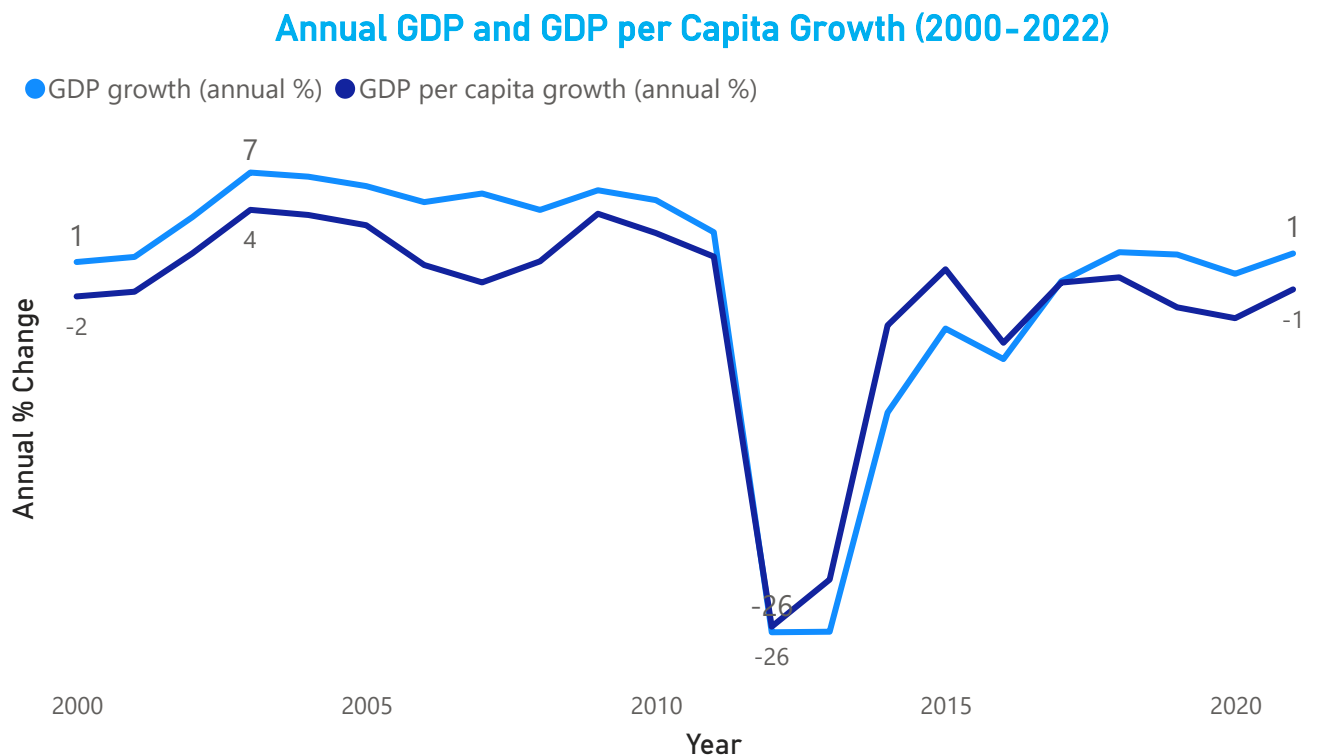
9M

Population growth rate (annual % change) 2023	Urban population (%) 2023	Internally displaced persons (% of total population) 2023	% of children (0-17) years amongst IDPs 2023	% of children (2-17) years with functional difficulties
4.9	57.4	11.2	43.5	No Data

Economy

World Bank 2023/2024 Income classification
Low-income

Indicator	2021
GDP per capita (current US\$)	421.1
Attribute	2012
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	36.7



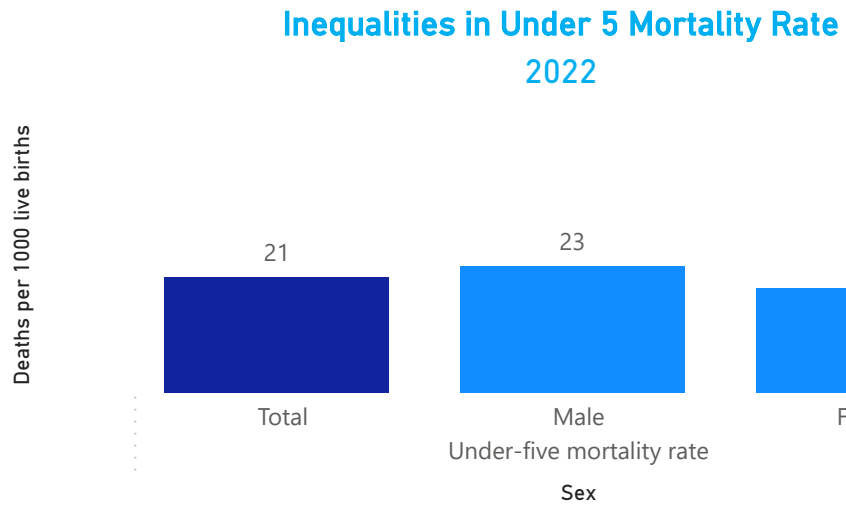


Child Mortality

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	12	10
Infant mortality rate	20	18
Under-five mortality rate	23	21

Under-five deaths
2022

9136

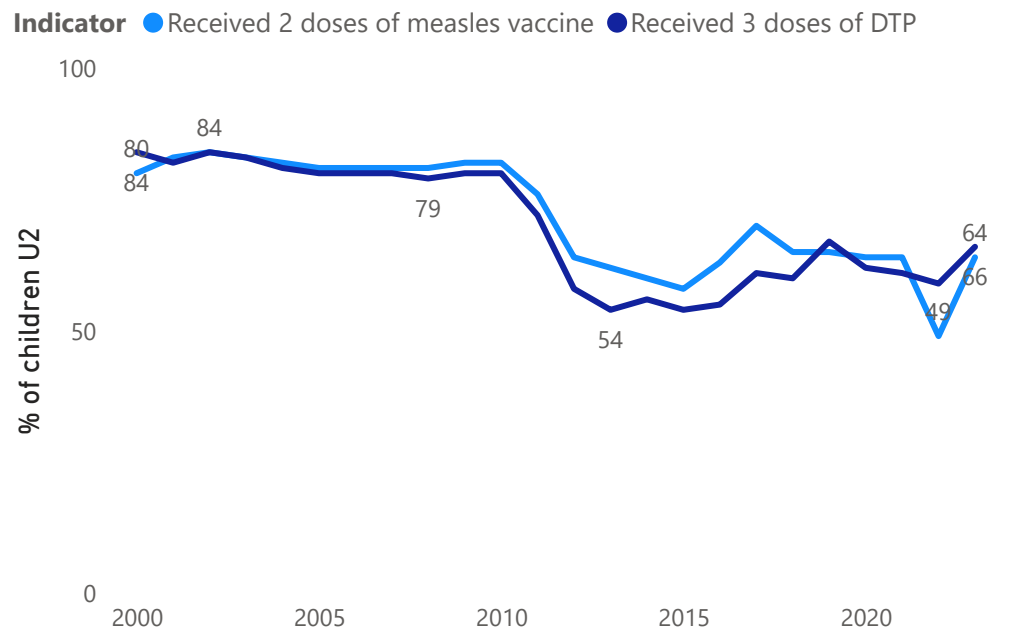


Maternal and Child Health

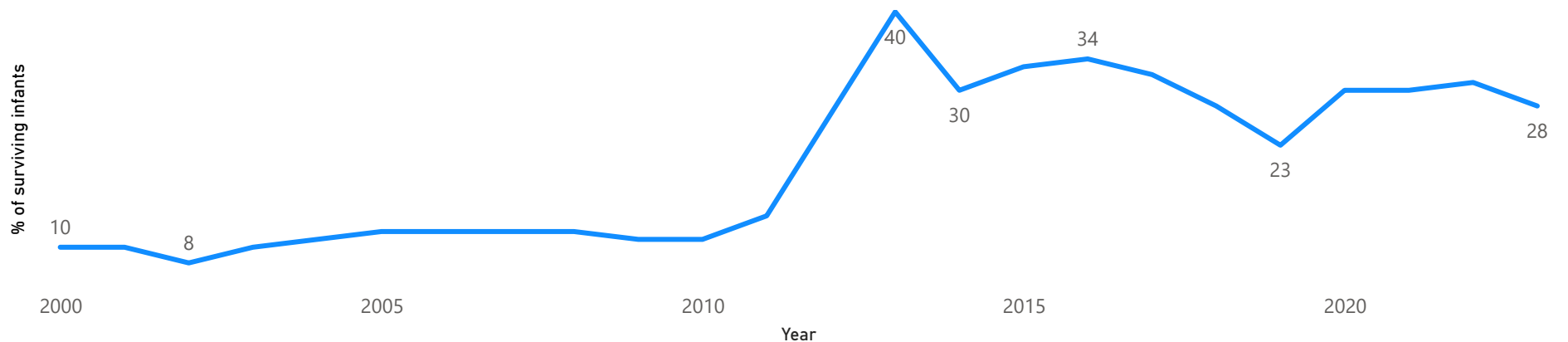
Trend of immunisation among children (0-2) years 2023

Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, with a live birth in the last 2 years)	2009
Antenatal care 4+ visits	64
Institutional deliveries	78
Skilled birth attendant	96

Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years)	2023
Received 1st dose of DTP	72
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	64
Received 3 doses of DTP	66



Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)





Right to proper nutrition

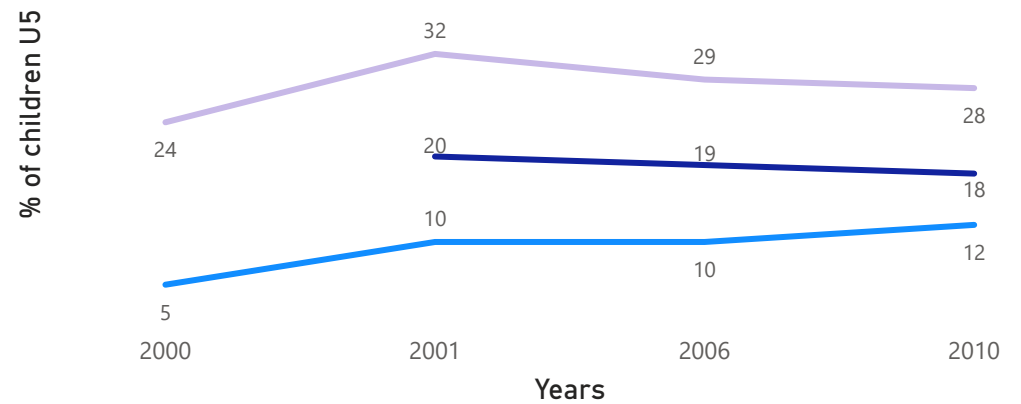
Nutrition

Infant and young child feeding (% of children)	2019
Exclusive breastfeeding (0-5 months)	28

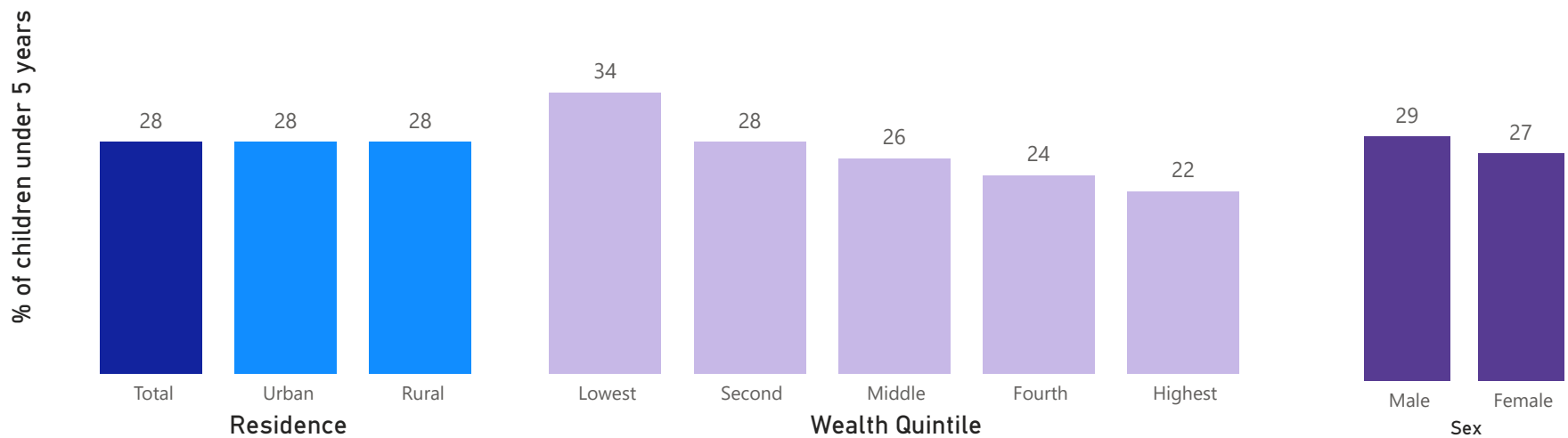
Malnutrition (% of children, under 5 years)	2010
Overweight	18
Stunting	28
Underweight	10
Wasting	12

Malnutrition Trend

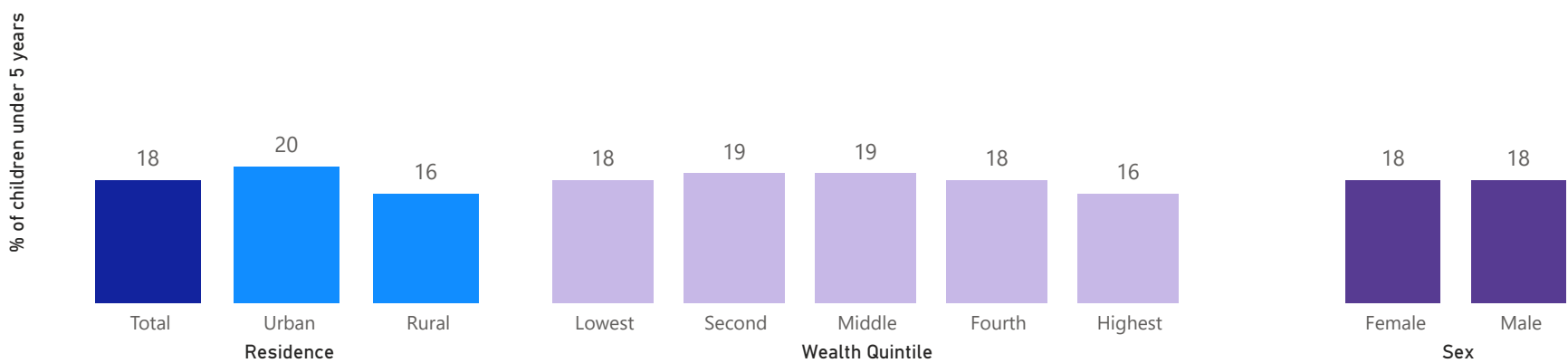
Indicator ● Overweight ● Stunting ● Wasting



Inequalities in Stunting 2010



Overweight Inequalities 2010





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

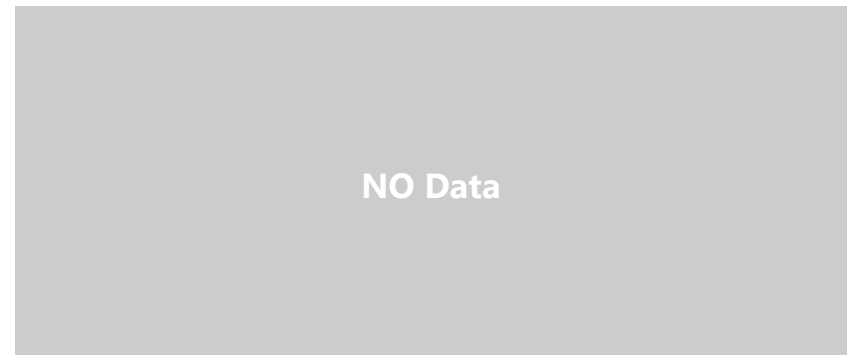
School completion by education level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	Year
Lower Secondary	No Data
Primary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

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

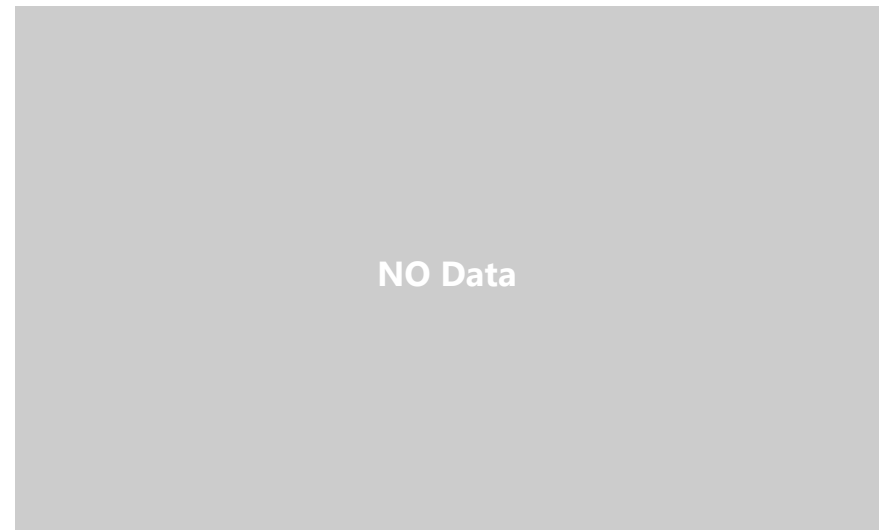
Reading/ Math proficiency	Year
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics	No Data
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading	No Data

indicator.label	Year
Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex (%)	No Data

School Completion Rates by sex

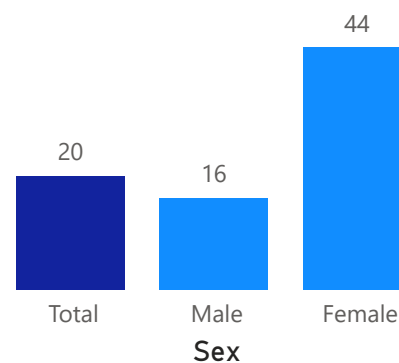


Inequalities in Out of School Children of Upper-Secondary School Aged Children

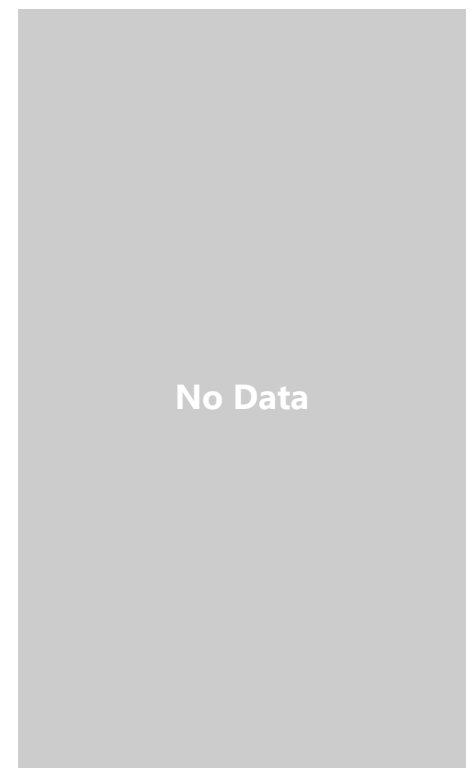


Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2010



Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)



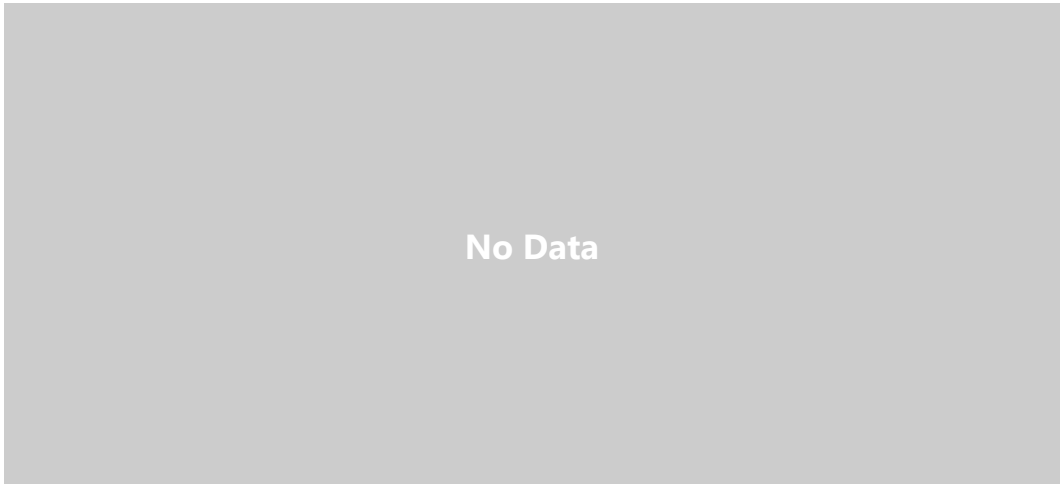


Violence

Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline

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

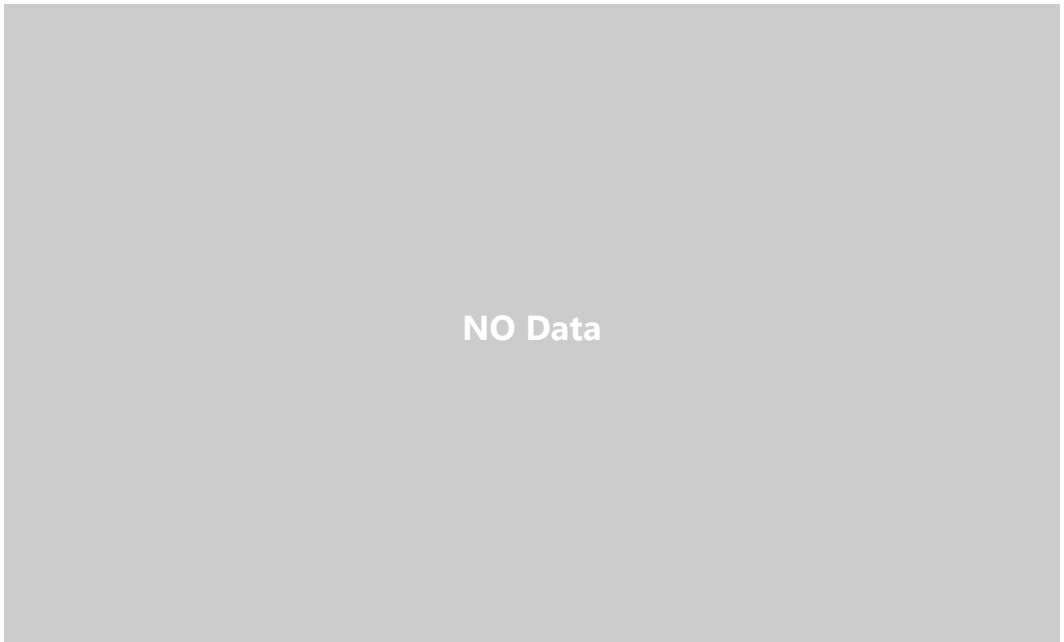
Violent Child Discipline	
Total	No Data
Male	No Data
Female	No Data



Inequalities in Child Marriage before 18

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

Married before 15	No Data
Married before 18	No Data



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

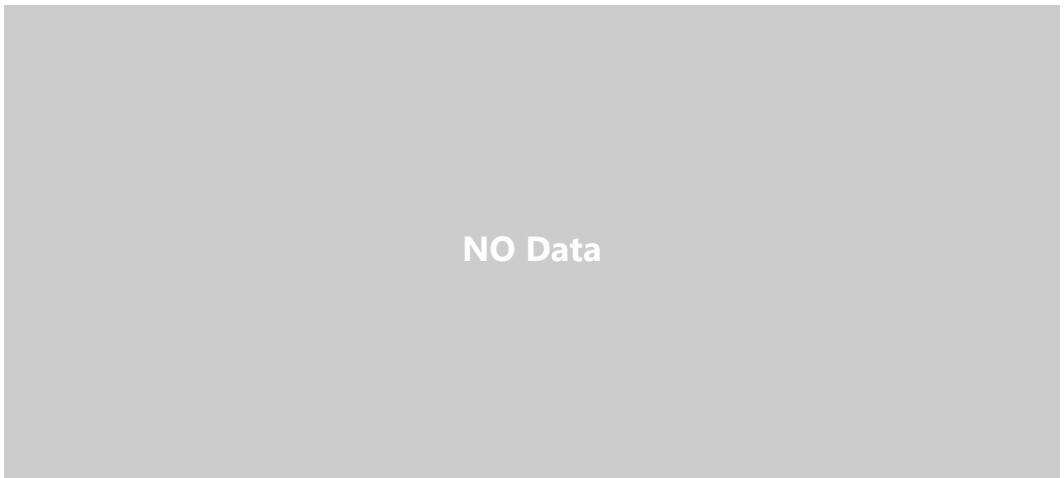
Child labour	No Data
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Birth Registration

Inequalities in Birth Registration

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years) Year

Birth registration	
Total	No Data
Rural	No Data
Urban	No Data





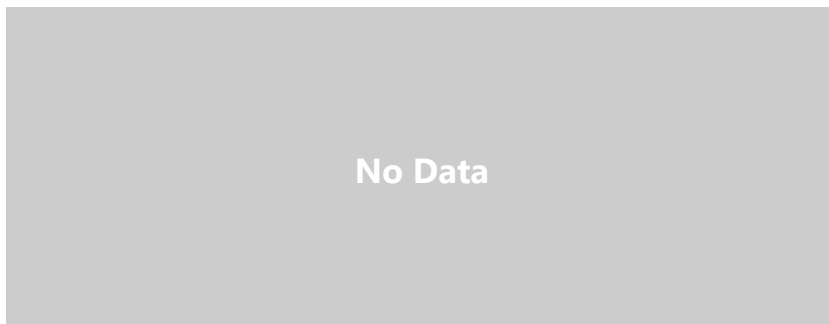
Right to equitable chance in life

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)
No Data	No Data	No Data

Child multidimensional poverty headcount ratio

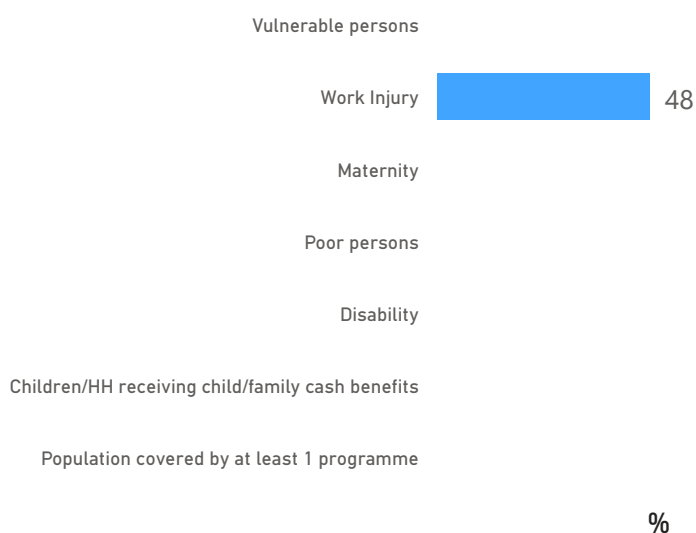


Dimensions of Multidimensional Poverty	Water	Household does not have piped water into dwelling or yard
	Sanitation	Unimproved toilet facility Shared toilet
	Housing	Primitive floor/Type of Household Overcrowding (more than 3 people per room)
	Health	Unskilled birth assistance (0-23 months) Not fully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

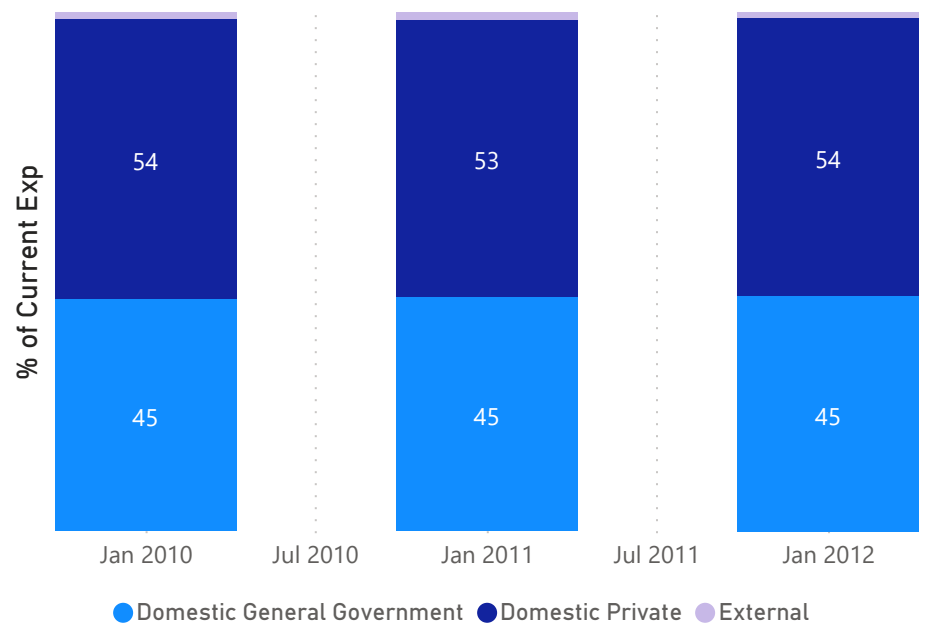
Public Expenditure on Essential services

Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period ● 2019



Changes in the Composition of Domestic Health Expenditure



Government expenditure on health % of GDP
2012

1.6

Government expenditure on education % of GDP
2015

5.5

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP
2010

0.4



Right to a clean and safe environment

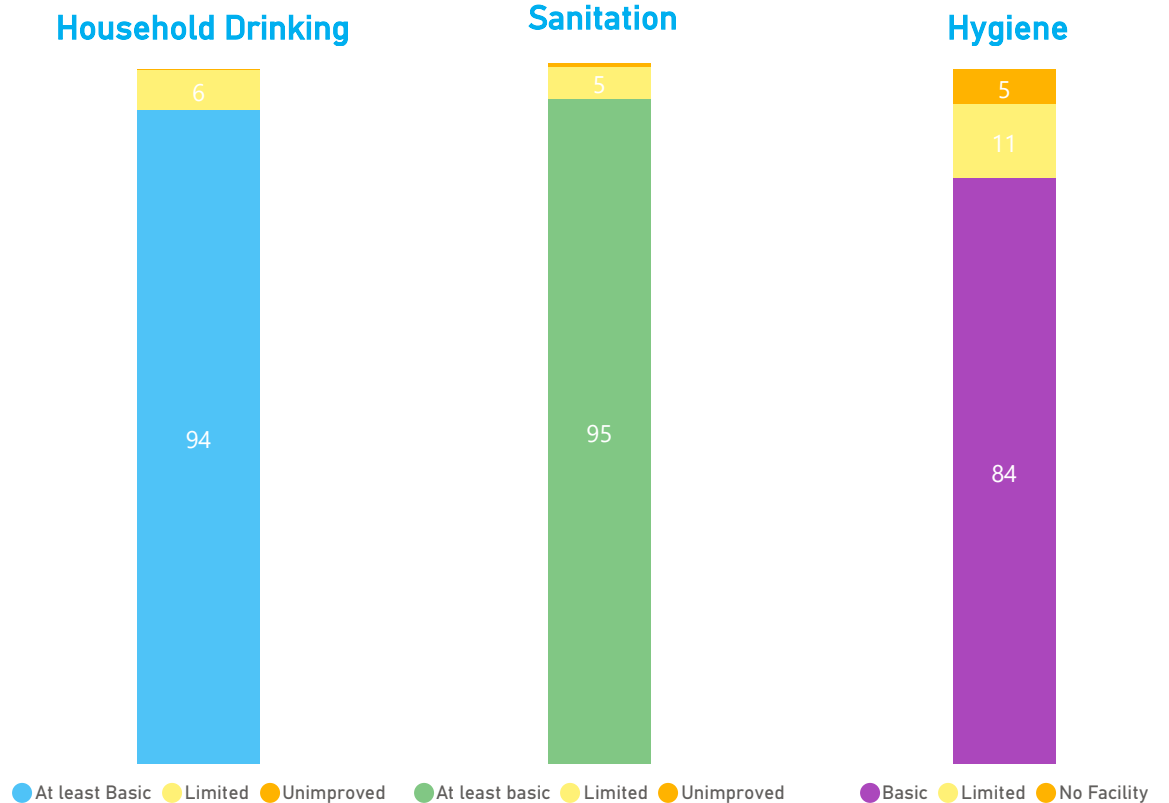
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

2022

Household coverage (%)	2022
At least basic drinking water	94
At least basic sanitation	95
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	84

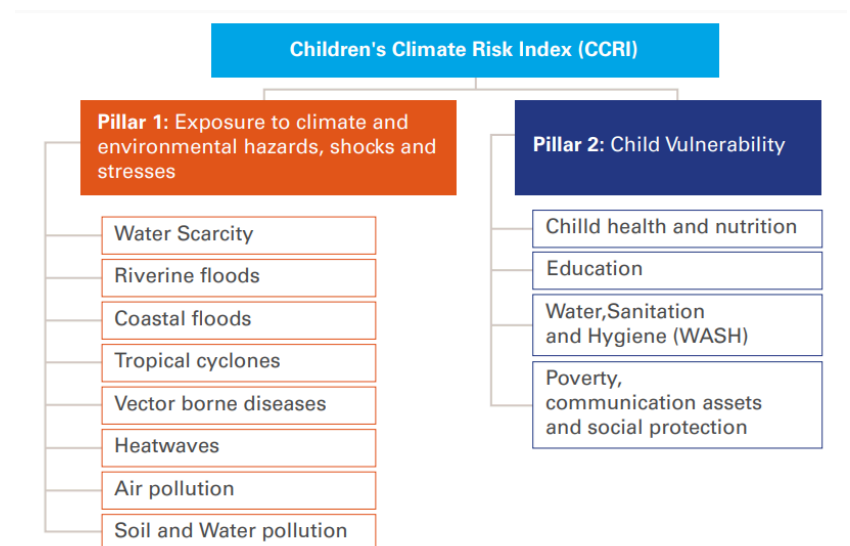
School coverage (%)	2022	2023
Basic drinking water	78	85
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	21	No Data
Basic sanitation	65	87



Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator	2020
Water Stress	Critical

Indicator	2020
Child vulnerability	Medium-High
Children's Climate and Environment Risk Index	Medium-High
Climate and environmental shocks	Medium-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: Syria has data on 32 of the 48 child related SDGs (58% 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 :

- 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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