

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN
IN YEMEN

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024

Factsheet on the situation of Children in Yemen

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 Yemen, 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

- Yemen is a **low income** economy. The GDP per capita growth reached -2% in 2018.
- Children represented **almost half** of the population in 2023. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) represented about **12%** of the total population and almost half of them were children in 2023.
- The country has made notable progress in terms of reducing child mortality , achieving **around 50% reduction** between 2000 and 2022 .
- **in 2023, less than half** of the children received 3 doses of DTP vaccine and 2 doses of measles vaccine. Additionally, the percentage of zero-dose children increased to **43%**.
- Almost **two-thirds** (63%) of children completed primary school in 2013, compared to only a **third** completing upper secondary school.
- In 2014, **one in four youth** aged 15-24 were unemployed, with higher rates among females (35% compared to 24% for males). Female labor force participation was **notably low, at only 5%**.
- Almost **half of the children under five years old** were stunted in 2013 while 40% were underweight.
- In 2023, violent child discipline was still prevalent **with more than three-quarters of the children** aged 1-14 years experiencing violent forms of discipline in 2023. Additionally, early marriage is still prevalent, with **one-third of women** aged 20-24 reporting that they were married before the age of 18.
- **Only 7% of the population** was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2022.
- The level of water stress was **critical** and the children's climate risk index was classified as **extremely high** as of 2020.

Disclaimer

Links to non-UNICEF sites do not imply endorsement by UNICEF of the accuracy of the information contained therein or of the views expressed. The statements in this publication are the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the policies or the views of UNICEF. The designations in this publication do not imply an opinion on the legal status of any country or territory, or of its authorities.



Demography and Economy

Demography

% of the population 2023

Children (0-4 years)	16.0
Children (0-17 years)	47.6
Adolescents (10-19 years)	21.9

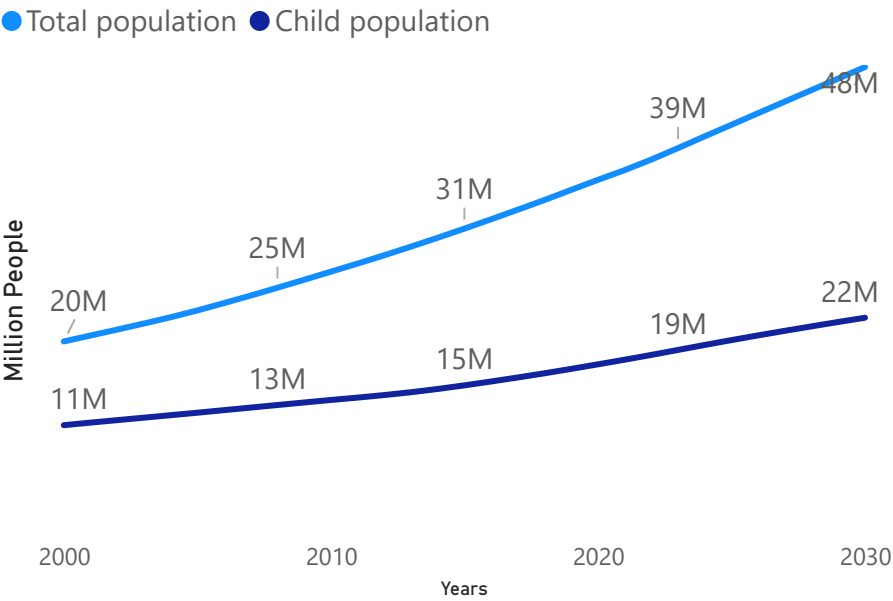
Number of births per year (in thousands) 2023

Number of births	1387
------------------	------

Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years 2023

Total fertility rate	4.6
----------------------	-----

Population Trends and Projections (2000-2030)



Total population

2023

39M

Child population

2023

19M

Population growth rate (annual % change)	Urban population (%)	Internally displaced(% of total population)	% of children (0-17) years amongst internally displaced population	% of children (2-17) years with functional difficulties
2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
3.0	39.8	11.5	45.6	18.0

Economy

Annual GDP and GDP per Capita Growth (2000-2018)

World Bank 2023/2024 Income
classification

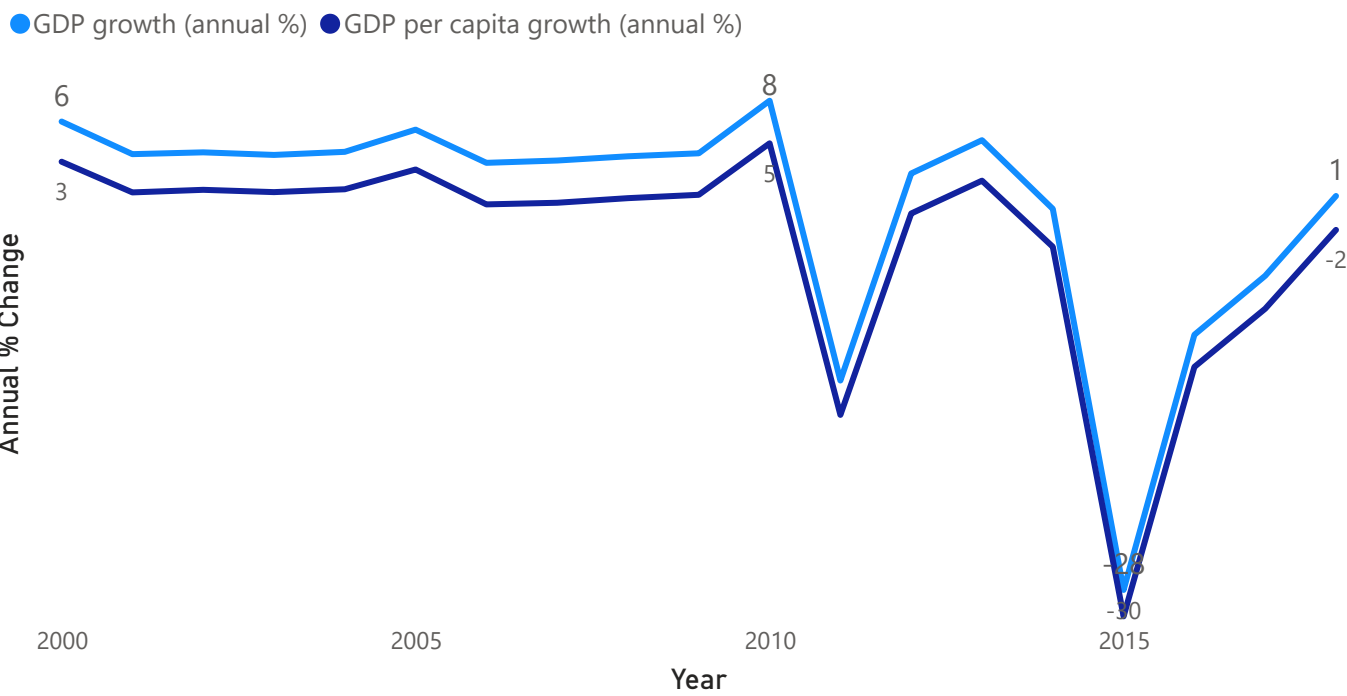
Low-income

Indicator 2018

GDP per capita (current US\$)	701.7
----------------------------------	-------

Indicator 2014

Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	8.1
--	-----





Child Mortality

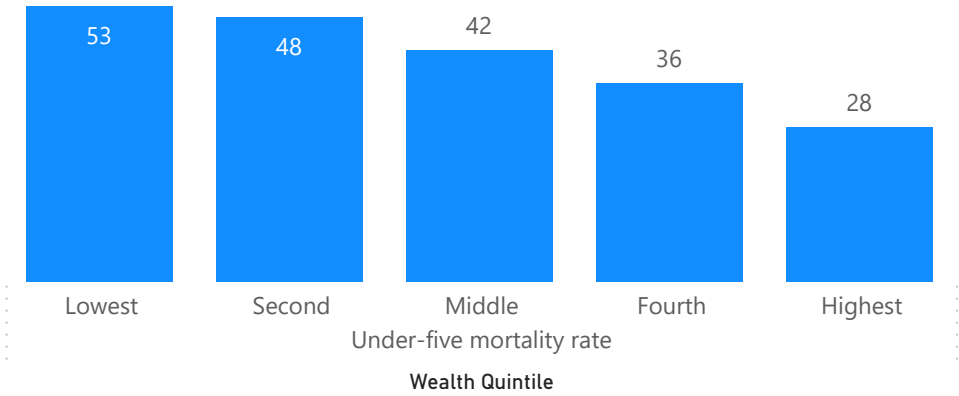
Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate
2022

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	37	22
Infant mortality rate	68	33
Under-five mortality rate	93	41

Under-five deaths
2022

41K

Deaths per 1000 live births



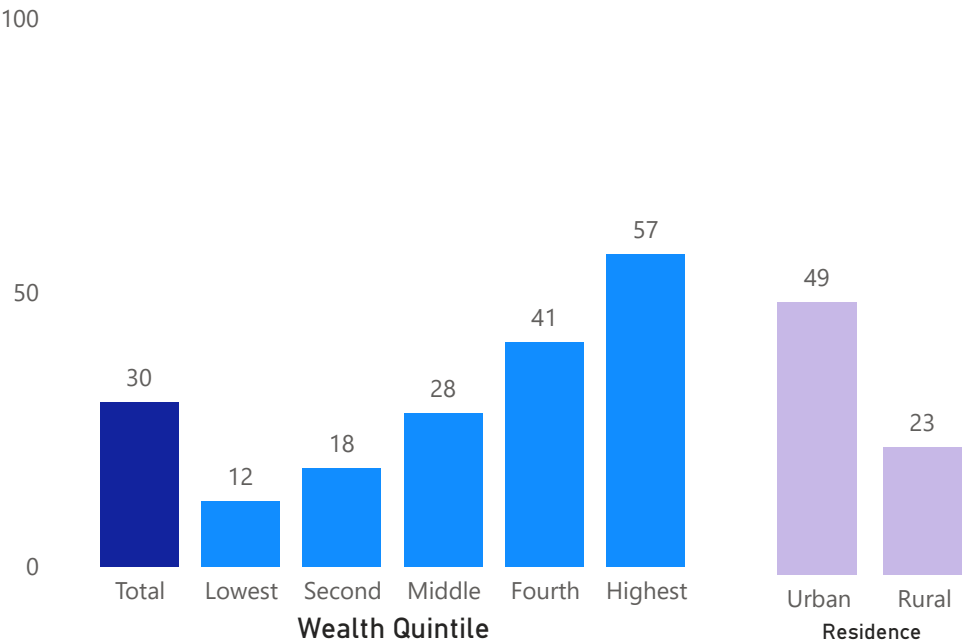
Maternal and Child Health

Inequalities in Access to Institutional Deliveries
2013

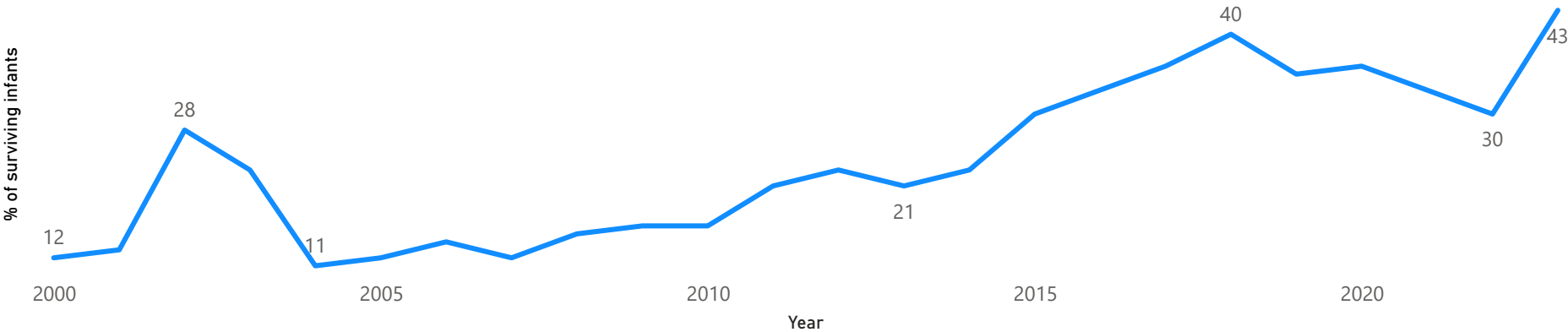
Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, with a live birth in the last 2 years)	2013
Antenatal care 4+ visits	25
Institutional deliveries	30
Skilled birth attendant	45

Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years)	2023
Received 1st dose of DTP	57
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	45
Received 3 doses of DTP	46

% of women with a live birth in the last 2 years



Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)



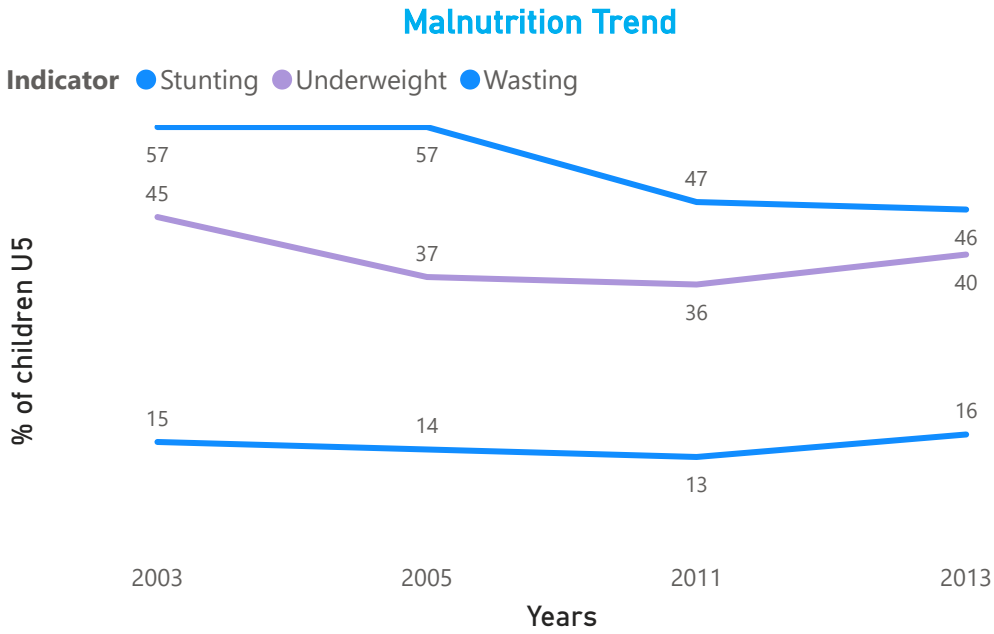


Right to proper nutrition

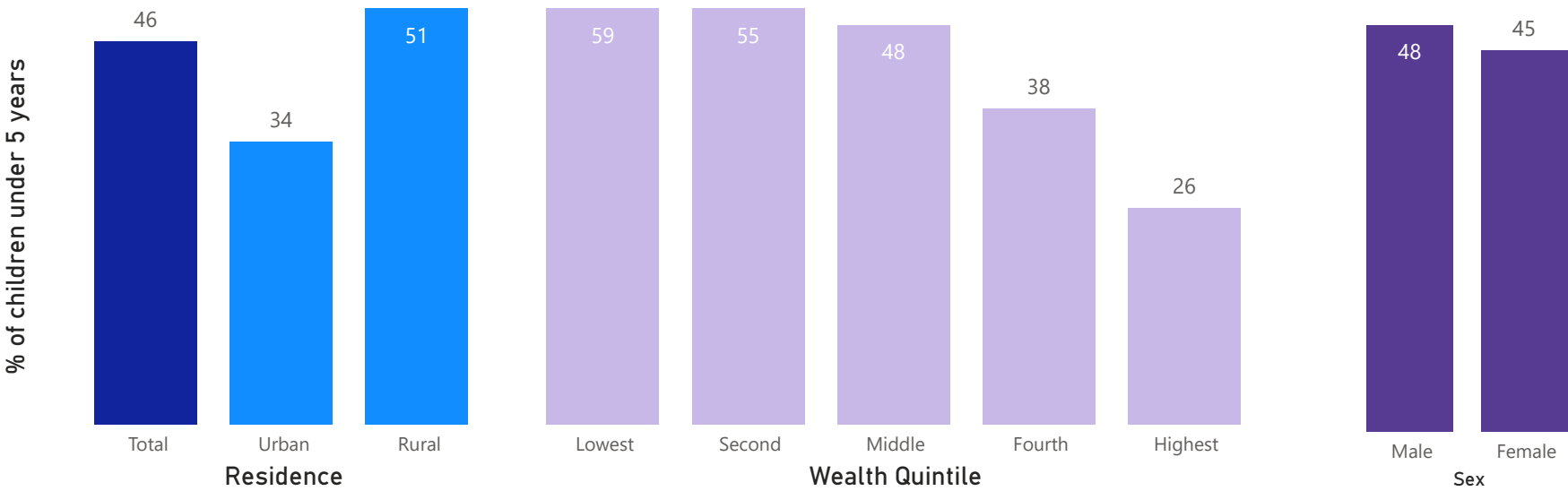
Nutrition

Infant and young child feeding (% of children) 2013	
Exclusive breastfeeding (0-5 months)	10
Minimum diet diversity (6 to 23 months)	21

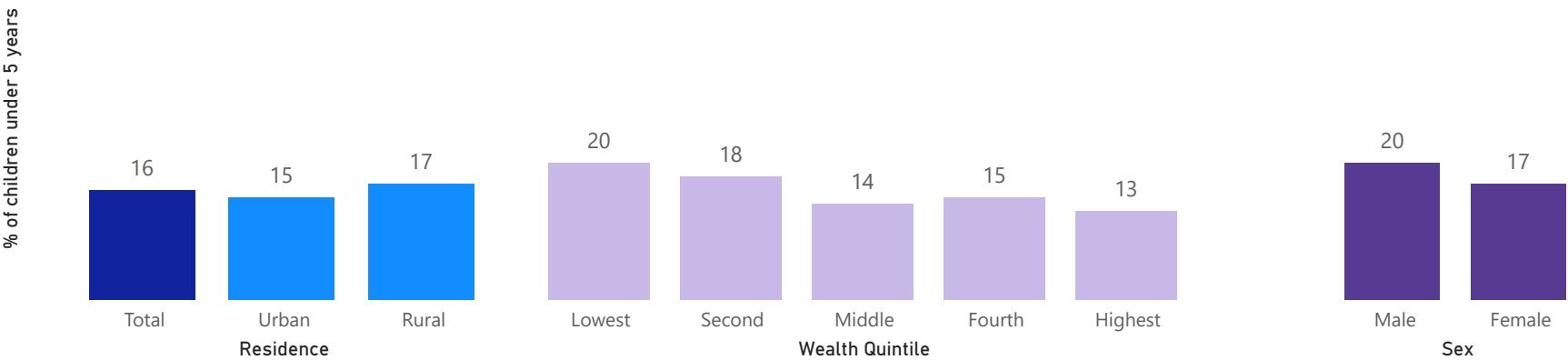
Malnutrition (% of children, under 5 years) 2013	
Overweight	2
Stunting	46
Underweight	40
Wasting	16



Inequalities in Stunting 2013



Wasting Inequalities 2013





Education, Training and Employment

School net attendance by education level (% of children of the relevant age group)	2013
Pre-Primary	14
Primary	76
Lower Secondary	39
Upper Secondary	29

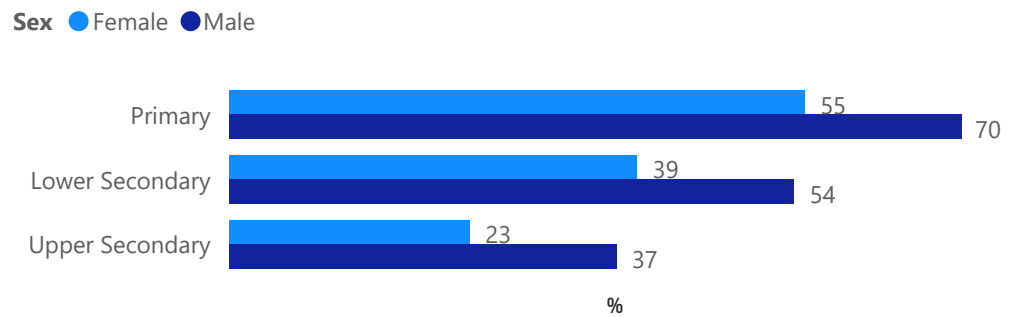
School completion by education level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	2013
Primary	63
Lower Secondary	46
Upper Secondary	30

Out-of-school children by educational level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	2013
Lower Secondary	22
Primary	23
Upper Secondary	41

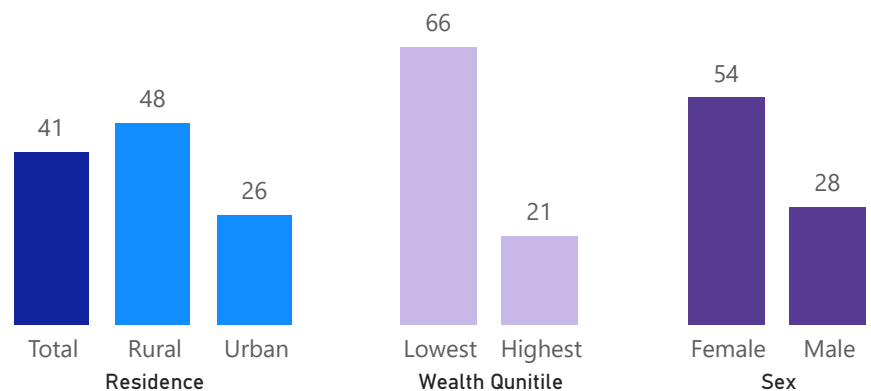
Reading/ Math proficiency	Year
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics	No Data
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading	No Data

Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex	2014
Total	45
Male	22
Female	70

School Completion Rates by sex
2013



Inequalities in Out of School Children of Upper-Secondary School Aged Children
2013

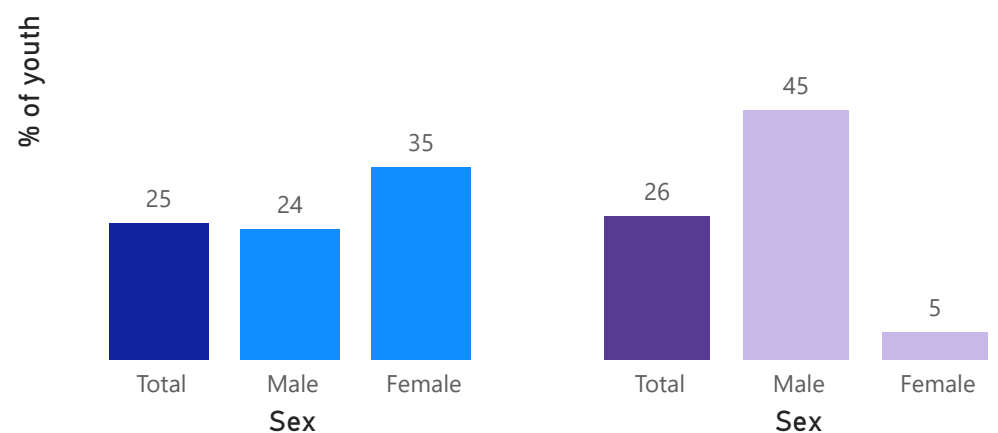


Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2014

Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)

2014



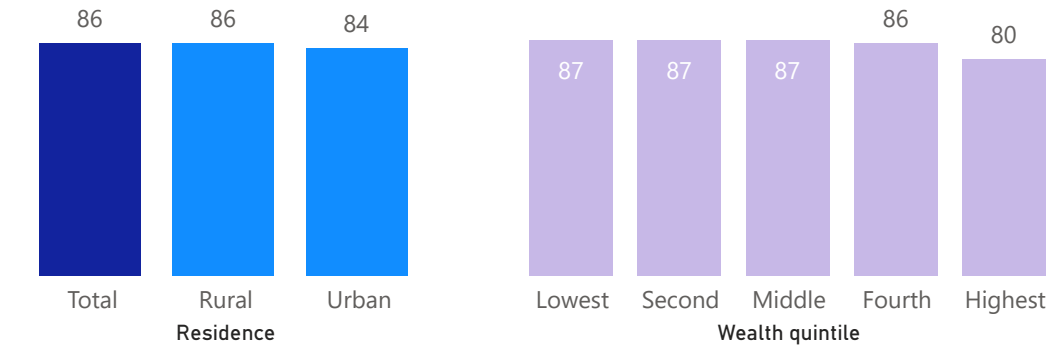


Violence

Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline

2023

Violent child discipline (% of children aged 1 - 14 years)		2023
Violent Child Discipline		
Total		86
Male		86
Female		85



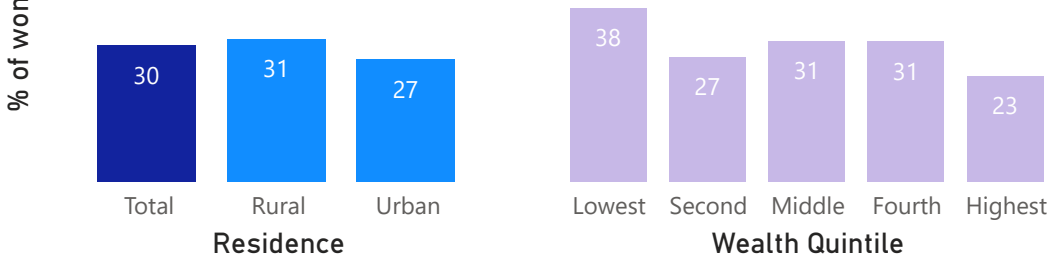
Inequalities in Child Marriage before 18

2023

Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 years)		2023
Married before 15		7
Married before 18		30

% of women 20-24 years

Child labour (% of children aged 5-14 years)		2023
Child labour		
Female		18
Male		14
Total		16



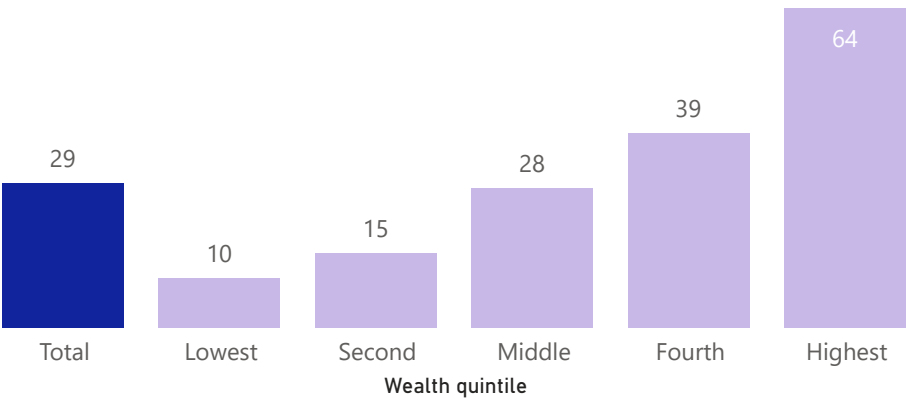
Birth Registration

Inequalities in Birth Registration

2023

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years)		2023
Birth registration		
Total		29
Rural		21
Urban		52

% of children under 5 years





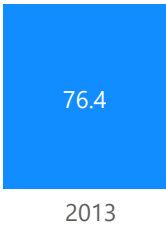
Right to equitable chance in life

Poverty

Monetary poverty	2020
Children (0-17) living in households with income below the national poverty line (% of all children)	51.5

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)
69.8	89.9	98.0

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	

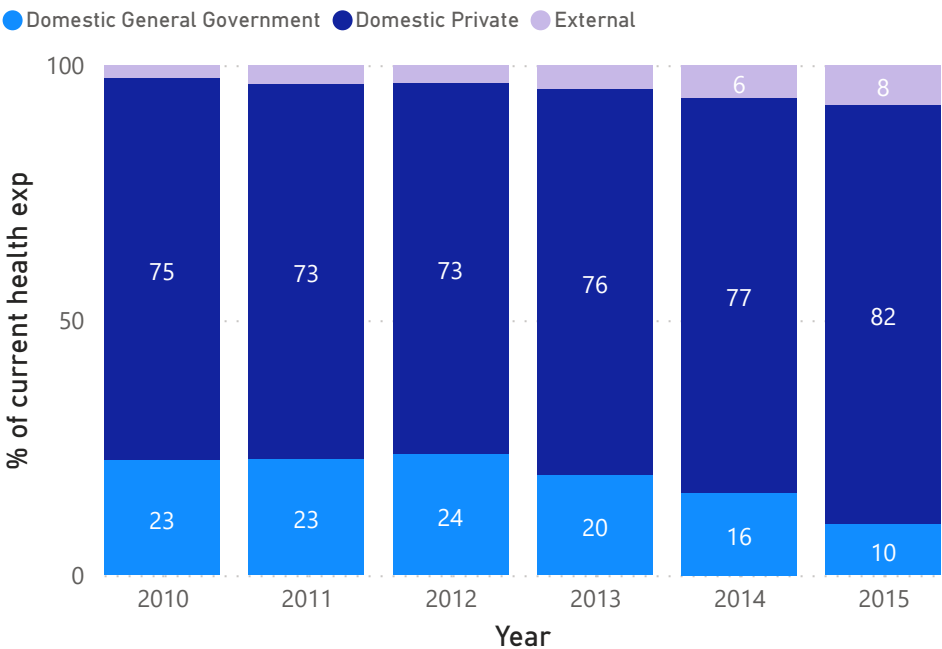
Public Expenditure on Essential services

Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period ● 2019 ● 2022



Changes in the Composition of Domestic Health Expenditure



Government expenditure on health % of GDP
2015

0.5

Government expenditure on education % of GDP
2011

3.6

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP
2012

0.7

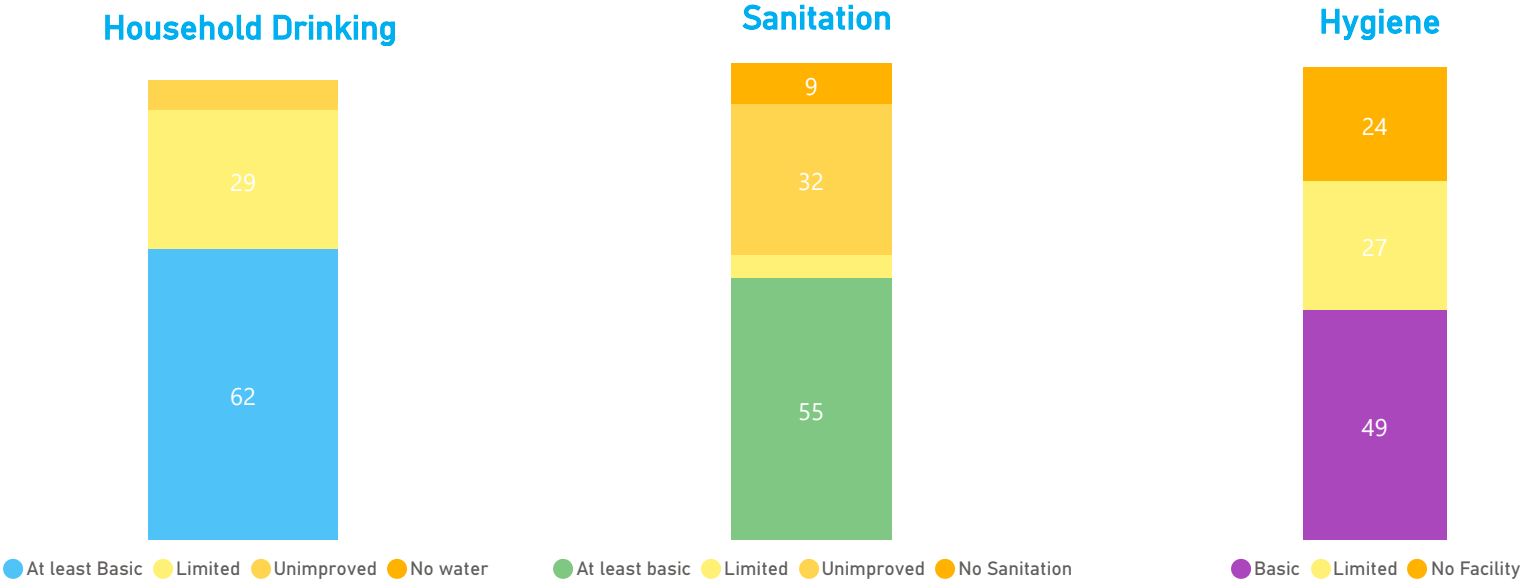


Right to a clean and safe environment

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

2022



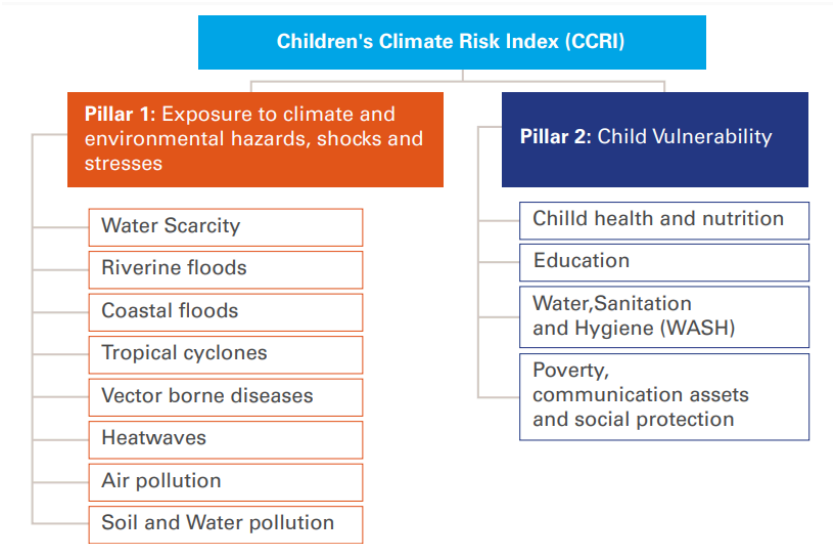
Household coverage (%)	2017	2022
At least basic drinking water	58	62
At least basic sanitation	53	55
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	49	

School coverage (%)	2017
Basic drinking water	36
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	8
Basic sanitation	25

Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator	2020
Water Stress	Critical

Indicator	2020
Climate and environmental shocks	High
Child vulnerability	Extremely High
Children's Climate and Environment Risk Index	Extremely 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: Yemen has data on 35 of the 48 child related SDGs (73% 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:

Salim Oweis | Communication Officer | Tel: +962-79-936-5212 | Email: soweis@unicef.org
Robert Bain | Monitoring Specialist | Tel: +962-79-281-7624 | Email: rbain@unicef.org
Meral Marouf | Data Research Specialist | Tel: +962-77-971-1628 | Email: mmarouf@unicef.org