

# The State of the World's Children 2015: Executive Summary

## Reimagine the future: Innovation for every child

### Corrections and Updates

*Last updated: 4 December 2014*

Please note the following corrections or updates in **bold**:

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The world is changing rapidly. Where there were around 5 billion people in 1990, by 2050 there will be nearly 10 billion – more than **2.4** billion of them younger than 18.

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- The richest 20 per cent of the world's women are **2.6** times more likely than the poorest 20 per cent to have a skilled attendant present at delivery. In South Asia, the richest women are **3.5 times** more likely than the poorest to have this benefit.
- Worldwide, **78** per cent of the richest children under the age of 5 have their births registered but only **49** per cent of the poorest enjoy the right to an official identity. And while **79** per cent of children living in cities are registered, this is true for only **50** per cent of those living in the countryside.
- The poorest 20 per cent of the world's children are **about twice** as likely as the richest 20 per cent to be stunted by poor nutrition and to die before their fifth birthday. Children in rural areas are at a disadvantage compared to those who live in urban areas.
- Nearly 9 in 10 children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households in the world's least developed countries attend primary school – compared to only about 6 in 10 from the poorest households. The gap is **most dramatic in countries in West and Central Africa. In Burkina Faso, for example, 85 per cent of children in the wealthiest households attended school, compared to 31 per cent of children in the poorest households.**
- Regardless of wealth, girls continue to be held back from schooling. For every 100 boys enrolled in primary school in West and Central Africa, only 90 girls are admitted. The exclusion is worse in secondary school, where only **77** girls are enrolled for every 100 boys.
- **Girls** are much more likely to be married or in union **during adolescence** than their male counterparts, and less likely than boys to have comprehensive knowledge of HIV. In South Asia, boys are **twice** as likely as girls to have this knowledge with which to protect themselves.
- **Of the estimated 2.5 billion people without improved sanitation in 2012, most of these people – 1.8 billion, or 70 per cent – live in rural areas. Disparities persist even within rural areas: in half of the countries with data, increases in rural coverage since 1995 have not been equitably distributed, with the wealthy gaining most of the benefits of improved sanitation.**

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There are an estimated **2.8** million children out of school in the Sudan.