Maps

Pictorial representations of indices of the well-being of children around the world

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Despite an overall decline in the proportion of children under 18, the current generation of young people is the largest in the history of the world.

• Children remain a high proportion of the total population in those countries where life expectancy is low.

• There are over 1 billion adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 – more than one fifth of the world’s population.

• About 85 per cent of adolescents live in developing countries.

• The relatively high proportion of 12- to 17-year-olds in many industrialized countries may be associated with low under-five mortality rates and a trend towards smaller families.

Child and adolescent populations
A child’s chance for a healthy life is affected by poverty, disease, malnutrition and conflict.

- Malnutrition contributes to more than half of the under-five deaths in developing countries.
- Under-five mortality rates have been decreasing since the 1960s, but in many countries, the AIDS pandemic has reversed this trend.
- In many countries, HIV/AIDS is increasing infant mortality rates and reducing life expectancy dramatically.
- The difference in under-five mortality rates between developing and industrialized nations has increased, and in some developing countries, the rates are now more than 50 times higher than in the industrialized world.
- In countries where the under-five mortality rate for girls exceeds that for boys, gender discrimination is thought to be a factor.

Life expectancy: Effect of HIV/AIDS
Average number of years in eight countries with highest HIV prevalence 1995-2000

- With HIV/AIDS
- Without HIV/AIDS


Infant mortality: Effect of HIV/AIDS
Deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births in eight countries with highest HIV prevalence 1995-2000

- With HIV/AIDS
- Without HIV/AIDS


Malnutrition

30% or more under-5-year-olds suffering from severe or moderate stunting

Sources:

Life expectancy

Under-5 mortality
Deaths of children under 5 years old per 1,000 live births 1998

- Under 10
- 10-49
- 50-99
- 100 and over
- No data

Girl children

Under-5 mortality rate for girls is disproportionately high

Malnutrition

30% or more under-5-year-olds suffering from severe or moderate stunting

Sources:


This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontier. Solid lines represent approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties.
Learning and education

School enrolment
Proportion of children enrolled in or attending primary school
- 90% and over
- 75%–89%
- 50%–74%
- Less than 50%
- No data

The gender gap
- At least 10% more boys than girls are enrolled in or attended primary school
- At least 10% more girls than boys are enrolled in or attended primary school
- At least 30% more boys than girls are enrolled in secondary school


Women’s illiteracy
Countries where 70% or more of adult women are illiterate


Changes in enrolment
Net primary school enrolment in 1980 and 1996
Regional percentages

Children have the right to a basic education that is free and of good quality.

- Although primary school enrolment rates have increased globally since 1980, more than 130 million children of school age in the developing world are still growing up without access to basic education.
- Girls represent nearly 60% of the children out of school.
- In many countries, this gender gap widens even further at the secondary level.

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Children and adolescents at special risk

Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children and adolescents at risk have the right to special protection.

- The child risk measure highlights countries where children face the highest risks to their lives.
- Where adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are high, children risk losing the protection and support of one or both parents.
- Some 250 million children in developing countries work, many in hazardous and exploitative labour. Their most basic rights, their health and even their lives are in jeopardy.
- One third of all births are not registered, increasing the likelihood that these children may be denied access to basic services and miss out on health care and education.
- Many children still die from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines.

Child risk measure
1998 index based on five indicators: under-five mortality, children not attending primary school, percentages of children moderately or severely underweight, risk from armed conflict, HIV/AIDS prevalence

AIDS orphans
Numbers of children currently under 15 who lost their mother or both parents to AIDS (10 most affected countries) 1997 data
Source: UNAIDS/WHO.

Immunization
Percentages of one-year-olds fully immunized against DPT and measles 1997-98 percentages in selected countries

Child workers
25% or more children are working
Birth registration
Fewer than 50% of children are registered

A child’s prospects for survival and development depend on where she or he is born.

- The well-being of children is profoundly affected by a country’s external debt as monies used to repay loans are unavailable for health, education and other basic social services.
- Almost 30% of the population in poor countries live on less than $1 a day – the majority of the poor are women and children.
- But child poverty is not confined to developing countries. Although poverty is measured on a different scale in the industrialized world, more than 1 in every 10 children in some of the richest nations are raised in families living below the established poverty line.

**Rich world, poor world**

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Approximately 540 million children in the world – one in four – live in dangerous and unstable situations.

- Children and women are the majority of the civilians who suffer, physically and psychologically, when their country is ripped apart by war and conflict.
- Children – some as young as 10 – are forced or coerced into services by governments and/or armed opposition groups.
- Environmental catastrophes, such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes, also have grave effects on children.

**Landmines: The true cost**

| Cost of removing one landmine | $100 to $1,000 |
| Cost of buying one landmine   | $3 to $10 |

8,000 to 10,000 children are killed or maimed by landmines every year.

Sources: International Campaign to Ban Landmines, 1999; UNICEF

**The toll of war**

- Child victims of armed conflicts 1990s
  - More than 2 million killed
  - More than 6 million seriously injured or permanently disabled
  - More than 1 million orphaned or separated from their families
  - More than 15 million psychologically traumatized
  - Refugees and internally displaced

Sources: UNICEF, UNHCR, US Committee for Refugees

**Conflict and disaster**

- Major armed conflicts 1998
- Children under 15 reported fighting in major armed conflicts 1997/1998 in either government forces, armed opposition groups, or both
- Natural disasters Jan.-Oct. 1999
- Landmines or unexploded ordnance threaten civilians

These maps are included to illustrate various aspects of the lives of children around the world. The selected indices capture some important but not all elements that affect children’s well-being. Data sources for illustrations are given on each map. For illustrations based on data from tables in The State of the World’s Children 2000, see ‘General note on the data’ on page 82 and the relevant table for further explanation of the data. As many countries as space allows have been included. Some island nations are surrounded by a box if an indicator may not otherwise be seen easily. Together, these maps present a snapshot of the well-being of children today. When the data on these maps are correlated, they show that negative conditions do not occur in isolation but, instead, clump together with the same children being affected by multiple and simultaneous events. These maps are graphic reminders of the effect of the absence, collapse or destruction of social service networks. However, the maps are ultimately positive as they also demonstrate the long-term benefits of social investment and stable environments on the welfare of women and children.

Map 1. Child and adolescent populations: The child and adolescent populations map focuses on demographic indicators that demonstrate the declining proportion of children and adolescents in the aggregate global population. These indicators are the child-specific pieces of a global demographic shift. The shift is the result of a global decline in birth and death rates with a corresponding increase in life expectancy at birth. As the map demonstrates, the demographic reversal is most visible in northern industrialized countries and is less pronounced in developing countries. While the deceleration has occurred in all regions of the world, it began earlier and has been more pronounced in industrially developed countries. This has exacerbated the existing differences in population and has helped to create the difference in under-19 populations between the more developed and less developed regions.

Map 2. Life expectancy: No special note.

Map 3. Learning and education: The map demonstrates the progress made towards the World Summit for Children goal of universal primary education for at least 80% of school-age children with a special emphasis on reducing the inequality between boys and girls. It shows primary school enrolment and attendance around the world, with a particular emphasis on the countries where the education of girls is significantly behind that of boys. Primary school enrolment and inequality are concentrated in two bands, one across the center of Africa and the other in South Asia. The largest differences between urban and rural attendance occur mostly within the bands. These are also the countries where female illiteracy exceeds 70%.

Map 4. Children and adolescents at special risk: The child risk measure (CRM) is a new indicator used for the first time in The Progress of Nations 1999, in an attempt to capture in numbers some of the risks a child faces until the age of 18. Higher numbers represent greater risk. The CRM was designed as a composite of five factors which have great impact on a child’s well-being: under-five mortality rate, per cent of children moderately or severely underweight, per cent of primary-school-age children not attending school, likelihood of risk from armed conflict and from HIV/AIDS.

Map 5. Rich world, poor world: Poverty is measured differently in developing and industrialized nations. In developing countries, the international poverty line is less than $1 a day and the lack of access to basic social services is assumed. In industrialized countries, different criteria apply.

Map 6. Unstable environments: Using the SIPRI Yearbook 1999, a ‘major armed conflict’ is defined as prolonged use of armed force between the military of two or more governments, or of one government and at least one organized armed group, incurring the battle-related deaths of at least 1,000 people during the entire conflict and in which the incompatibility concerns government and/or territory. Information on child soldiers refers to children under 15 reported as fighting in major armed conflicts in 1997/1998 in either government forces, armed opposition groups, or both. Data on child soldiers is not easy to verify, especially in countries with no government system of birth registration that would allow to confirm a child’s age. In some of the European countries shown, landmines or unexploded ordnance date back to the Second World War and may be less of a threat to civilians than in other countries. Using information from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the map shows many of the natural disasters of concern to the humanitarian community, although not all countries where a natural disaster took place are shown.