Progress on Children's Well-Being: Centring child rights in the 2030 Agenda

For every child, a sustainable future

Benchmarking SDG Indicators: Methods and Results

14th IAEG-SDG, Copenhagen, Denmark
October 25th, 2023
Context

- The value of data is only realized when it informs narratives (data-analytics).

- Need to extract value of global databases to inform global, regional and national conversations (either by illustrating methodological approaches and/or helping inform conversations on development priorities and what to do about them).

- Focus in both the what and how. Reproducible and scalable workflow using APIs and GitHub.

https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/
How do we assess progress on SDG indicators for children?

**Effort required** to meet the target by 2030

*Not all countries are in the same place*

and

**Results achieved** in recent history

*Some countries are performing systematically well across sectors. Acceleration is possible, and we bring historical evidence.*

https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/
Why and how did we benchmarking effort and progress?

- use of percentile rank to give meaning to both absolute values (latest value and indicator targets by 2030) and annualized rates of change (both historical and required to reach indicator targets by 2030).
  - Use the latest value available as of June 2023 for benchmarking values; and the observed progress in the last 20 years as a reference group to benchmark the observed and expected rates of change.
- provide a framework to systematically track and compare progress across different child-related SDG indicators globally.
  - need of a common metric to assess progress across 48 child-related SDG indicators, grouped around five domains.
Benchmark of the rate of change using a single indicator: Neonatal mortality (SDG 3.2.2)

Notes: 4179 observations

https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/
Benchmark of the **rate of change** using a single indicator: Neonatal mortality (SDG 3.2.2)

**Neonatal mortality rate**

**Benchmark Change (with common support)**

**CM - Global**

![Graphs showing the rate of change in neonatal mortality](image)

Notes: Mu Diff: 10.271 (pval: 0.000); KSmimov D:0.503 (pval:0.000); Indicator code:CM/MRM; Aggregation: gb; Indicator Direction: Negative
Benchmark of the level using a single indicator: Neonatal mortality (SDG 3.2.2)

Under-five mortality rate
Benchmark Level and Target (with common support)
CM - Central Asia and Southern Asia

Notes: Mu Dif: -31.073 (pval: 0.028); KS mimov D: 0.500 (pval: 0.060); Indicator code: CME_MRY0104; Aggregation: reg; Indicator Direction: Negative
Countries require very different levels of expected effort to reach their 2030 child-related targets.

Benchmarking of 2030 country targets against where countries are today to show the required effort required to meet the target.

- Blue dots show where the average country is, and the orange dot where they want to be by 2030.
- The gap between the two indicate the level of expected effort required.

Note: Values can be above 100% if targets are above recorded history of countries/indicators highest level of performance as of today.
Historically countries have delivered different levels of results (green dots), and reaching the 2030 targets will require different degrees of acceleration (red dots).

Benchmarking of acceleration required to meet the target against a country’s recent rates of change – or how quickly progress has been accelerating.

- This chart shows rate of improvement.
- Green dots show where the average country is, and the red dot the rate of change necessary to reach 2030 targets.
- The gap between the two also indicates the level of ambition.
- In high income countries the green and red dot are very close.
- In low-income countries reaching the target required significant acceleration no the rate of progress.

Note: This exercise helps countries understand where the targets can be met by doing more of the same, where the scaling up of what exists might suffice (i.e., more financing might be enough), and last but not least, where – given the required acceleration – they must consider ‘game-changers’.
Many games changers needed are the same, however some differences can be identified across income groups and indicators.
Progress on child-related SDGs (ROSA highlighted)

https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/
Identifying countries that have been systematically strong performers across multiple child-related SDGs around the world

Countries that show the strongest performance across indicators vary in how close they are to reaching targets.

Going forward, we can identify positive and negative deviant of systematic performance.

https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/
How can this analysis be used? Country briefs

Figure 1. Effort required of child-related SDGs organized by sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survive and Thrive</th>
<th>Learning</th>
<th>Protection from harm</th>
<th>Safe and Clean Environment</th>
<th>Life Free of Poverty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Historical performance of child-related SDGs organized by sectors

Source: UNICEF Short Beta release using data from UNICEF Data Warehouse as of August 2023. For a global overview using this methodology please see: UNICEF 2019-SDG Report. For more detailed information including indicator name and layer availability please visit: UNICEF India SDG platform at data.unicef.org.sg.

Link to all two pagers (link)

https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/
Benchmarking of 2030 country targets against where countries are today to show the required effort required to meet the target.

**Figure 3. Benchmarking where the country is and where it aims to be by 2030**

Benchmarking of acceleration required to meet the target against a country’s recent rates of change – or how quickly progress has been accelerating.

**Figure 4. Benchmarking the historical rate of progress and expected rate of progress to meet the 2030 target**

Source: UNICEF Chief Statistician Office using data from UNICEF Data Warehouse as of August 2023. For a global narrative using this methodology please see UNICEF 2018 SDG Report. For more detailed information including indicator value and time year available please visit our Online Hub SDG profile or data.unicef.org.

[Link to all two pagers](https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/)
We are also changing processes: the HOW is as important as the WHAT
Principles of reproducible and scalable analytics

### SDG process and the measurement of child wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality education/learning outcomes</td>
<td>29.1 (a)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2018-2027</td>
<td>Country targets</td>
<td>Global standard and interim global measurement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence against children</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Multiple Indicators</td>
<td>2015 Global target</td>
<td>2022 Global classification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2015 Global standard</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:**
1. The CRC articles mentioned in the visualisation are not exhaustive. Please refer to the publication for the full mapping.
2. The years of key milestones are based on efforts by international organisations to develop global classifications, standards and methodologies to measure different dimensions of child well being.

[https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/](https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/)
Thank you