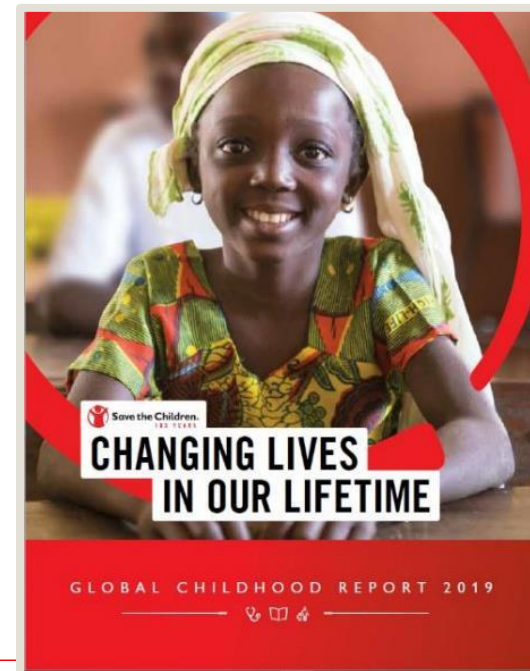


Global Childhood Report 2019

Changing Lives in our Lifetime

June 25, 2019



Research Objective

Findings from the study will increase awareness about child rights, inform stakeholders programming, policies, and decisions on how to best protect children to enable them enjoy their childhood.

This is the Save the Children's third annual End of Childhood Index compares the latest data for 175 countries and assesses where the most and fewest children are missing out on childhood.

Research Concept

Every child has a right to childhood. The concept of childhood is defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It represents a shared vision of childhood:

- Healthy children in school and at play, growing strong and confident with the love and encouragement of their family; and
- An extended community of caring adults, gradually taking on the responsibilities of adulthood, free from fear, safe from violence, protected from abuse and exploitation. This ideal contrasts starkly with the childhood many children experience.

Countries differ greatly in their ability to protect childhood. The End of Childhood Index explores this variation across countries, revealing where and how children are being robbed of the childhoods they deserve. The hope is it will stimulate discussion and action to ensure every last child fully experiences childhood.

Methodology

INDICATORS

The following eight indicators were selected because they best represent these enders, are available for a large number of countries and are regularly updated.

DATA SOURCES

Data were obtained from reliable and reputable sources, almost exclusively UN agencies, and are publicly available to those interested in doing additional analyses

ENDER	INDICATOR
Child dies	Under-5 mortality rate
Child is severely malnourished	Child stunting (%)
Child is out of school	Out-of-school children, adolescents and youth (%)
Child begins work life	Child labor (%)
Child marries	Adolescents currently married or in union (%)
Child has a child	Adolescent birth rate
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (%)
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Child homicide rate

Methodology

The overall index score was calculated by summing across the normalized scores

ENDER	INDICATOR	BEST	WORST	WEIGHT
Child dies	Under-5 mortality rate	0.0	156.9	1/8
Child is severely malnourished	Child stunting (%)	0.0	57.5	1/8
Child is out of school	Out-of-school children, adolescents and youth (%)	0.0	67.5	1/8
Child begins work life	Child labor (%)	0.0	55.8	1/8
Child marries	Adolescents currently married or in union (%)	0.0	59.8	1/8
Child has a child	Adolescent birth rate	0.0	201.2	1/8
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (%)	0.0	65.4	1/8
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Child homicide rate	0.0	32.8	1/8

Methodology

MISSING VALUES

The Complete End of Childhood Index table includes all 186 countries with recent data (from 2005 and onwards) for at least five of the eight indicators, but not all of them are included in the index rankings.

- Countries missing homicide data were dropped from the rankings.
- Countries missing up to any two of the other seven indicators were allowed to remain in the index.

This was the only way to ensure a sufficient number of high-income OECD countries were included, as most do not collect or publish data on stunting or child labor. In total,

- 176 countries had sufficient data to be ranked.
- 98 countries have data for all eight indicators.
- 34 countries are missing one indicator.
- 44 countries are missing two indicators, 33 of which are high-income countries.

Methodology

PERFORMANCE BANDS FOR PROGRESS ON ALL CHILDHOOD ENDERS, 2000 TO LATEST YEAR AVAILABLE

Excellent progress for children	75-100% reduction in childhood ender
Very good progress for children	50-74% reduction in childhood ender
Good progress for children	25-49% reduction in childhood ender
Fair progress for children	1-24% reduction in childhood ender
No progress for children	0% or prevalence of childhood ender has increased



Key Findings

Introduction

Children born today have a better chance than at any time in history to grow up healthy, educated and protected, with the opportunity to reach their full potential. Even a generation ago, a child was twice as likely to die before reaching age 5, 70 percent more likely to be involved in child labor and 20 percent more likely to be murdered.

In commemoration of its founding 100 years ago, Save the Children is releasing its third annual *Global Childhood Report* to celebrate progress for children. We examine the major reasons why childhood comes to an early end, and find significantly fewer children suffering ill-health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labor, child marriage, early pregnancy and violent death. In the year 2000, an estimated 970 million children were robbed of their childhoods due to these causes. That number today has been reduced to 690 million² – meaning at least 280 million children are better off today than they would have been two decades ago.

A comparison of *End of Childhood Index* scores finds the overall situation for children has improved in 173 out of 176 countries since 2000. This is welcome news – and it shows that investments and policies are working to lift up many of our children. Tremendous progress for children is taking place in some of the poorest countries in the world, providing ever-increasing evidence that development work is paying huge dividends in countries where needs are greatest.....

Key Findings

Introduction

Children born today have a better chance than at any time in history to grow up healthy, educated and protected, with the opportunity to reach their full potential. Even a generation ago, a child was twice as likely to die before reaching age 5, 70 percent more likely to be involved in child labor and 20 percent more likely to be murdered.

A comparison of End of Childhood Index scores finds the overall situation for children has improved in 173 out of 176 countries since 2000.

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SAVED

Global progress has saved millions of childhoods since the year 2000. Now¹ there are:

- 4.4 million fewer child deaths per year
- 49 million fewer stunted children
- 115 million fewer children out of school
- 94 million fewer child laborers
- 11 million fewer married girls
- 3 million fewer teen births per year
- 12,000 fewer child homicides per year

BUT STILL



1 IN 4
CHILDREN
WORLDWIDE
IS BEING
DENIED
A CHILDHOOD



Save the Children.
100 YEARS

#ChildhoodReport



Save the Children

2019-21 Communications Planning

Prepared and delivered by: Samirullah Popal

Key Findings

End of Childhood Index 2000 vs 2019

CHILDHOOD ENDER	CHILD DIES	CHILD IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED	CHILD IS OUT OF SCHOOL	CHILD BEGINS WORK LIFE	CHILD MARRIES	CHILD HAS A CHILD	CHILD IS A VICTIM OF EXTREME VIOLENCE		END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2019	
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)†	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)		
	2017	2013-2018*	2013-2018*	2013-2018*	2013-2018*	2016	2018	2016	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 176)
Afghanistan*	67.9	40.9	41.9 z	29.4	16.9 b	68.8	14.9 c	3.0	596	158

Afghanistan is ranked 157th amongst 176 countries

TOP 10 Where childhood is most protected		BOTTOM 10 Where childhood is most threatened	
RANK	COUNTRY	RANK	COUNTRY
1	Singapore	167	Burkina Faso
2	Sweden	168	DR Congo
3	Finland	169	Guinea
3	Norway	170	Nigeria
3	Slovenia	171	Somalia
6	Germany	172	South Sudan
6	Ireland	173	Mali
8	Italy	174	Chad
8	South Korea	175	Niger
10	Belgium	176	Central African Republic

Key Findings

Key Success

This report includes case studies of countries that have made strong progress in improving children's well-being in recent decades. For example:

Afghanistan has reduced its adolescent birth rate by increasing girls' education and improving health services, with donor assistance.
Afghanistan has cut its rate by 44 percent (from 29 to 16 percent).

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable reductions in under-5 mortality following sustained investments in health.

Ethiopia has dramatically lowered the prevalence of stunting through a package of interventions to improve children's nutrition.

Mexico has greatly reduced the proportion of children involved in child labor by investing in education and poverty reduction.

Philippines achieved an impressive rise in the number of children enrolled in school by offering incentives and flexible options.

India has greatly reduced child marriage through legal reforms, programs to educate and empower girls, and public awareness campaigns.

Colombia is making good gains to reduce violence against children through public investments in safety and programs for at-risk youth.

Key Findings

10 Factors Driving Change for Children Since 2000

1. **The MDG agenda** – Launched in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) galvanized a 15-year global campaign to end poverty in all its forms.
2. **Government commitment** – Strong political leadership at the national level – among heads of government and key policymakers – has played a crucial role in helping millions more children survive and thrive
3. **Social investment and economic growth** – Economic growth on its own does not guarantee greater resources for social investment in children's programs, but a number of countries have used additional resources resulting from economic growth to create highly effective programs benefitting children
4. **Improved planning and implementation** – Policy commitments are important but they require detailed and coordinated programs to succeed.
5. **Reducing inequities** – Progress in child well-being has often been greatest where there has been an explicit emphasis on directing resources to and improving the situation of the poorest and most marginalized groups.

Key Findings

10 Factors Driving Change for Children Since 2000

6. **Development assistance** – Global aid declined in the 1990s, but has doubled since 2000
7. **Empowering women and young girls** – Advances in girls' education (including equal access to primary school), falling fertility rates, delays in marriage and first pregnancy, greater participation in the labor market, and a stronger political voice all represent major advances for women since the year 2000.
8. **Women's leadership** – Since 1995, when the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted, the proportion of women serving in parliaments around the world has more than doubled, growing from 11 percent that year to 24 percent in 2019
9. **New technologies** – Since 2000, the spread of mobile phones, computers and the Internet have transformed the way people live, work and interact. Nearly the entire world population (96 percent) now live within reach of a mobile cellular network, up from 58 percent in 2001.
10. **Social media** – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and other social media platforms have spread around the world with remarkable speed

Key Findings

More Children Are Healthy and Surviving to Age 5

49% decline in the under-5 mortality rate worldwide = **Good Progress**

Result: **Over 50 million children's lives saved** since 2000⁵⁴

ALMOST HALF AS MANY CHILDREN ARE DYING PER YEAR

Global number of deaths of children under 5

2000



9.8 million

2017



5.4 million

Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), 2018

But in Afghanistan
deaths per
1,000 live
Births in 2017 was

67.9

Prepared and delivered by: Samirullah Popal

Key Findings

Fewer Children Suffer Malnutrition that Causes Stunting

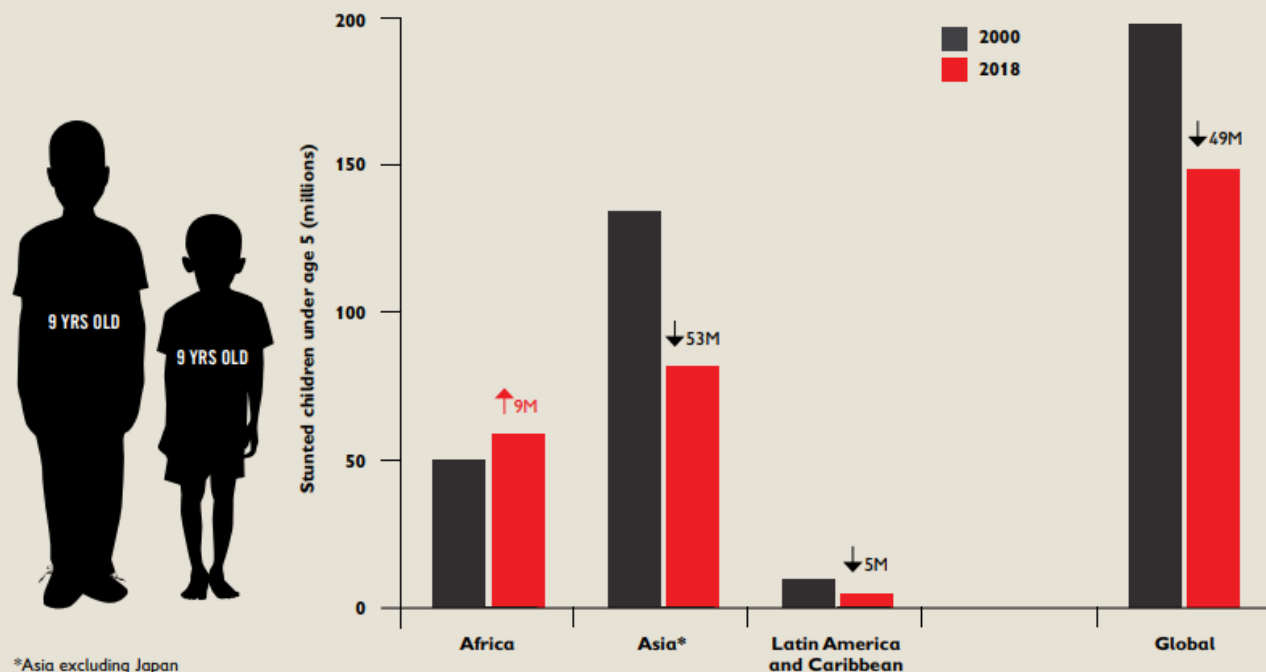
33% decline in the child stunting rate worldwide = **Good Progress**

Result: **49 million fewer stunted children** today compared to 2000

But in Afghanistan
child stunting rate
is

40.9

STUNTING NUMBERS ARE UP IN AFRICA, DOWN IN ASIA & LATIN AMERICA



Source: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group Joint Malnutrition Estimates, March 2019 Edition

Prepared and delivered by: Samirullah Popal

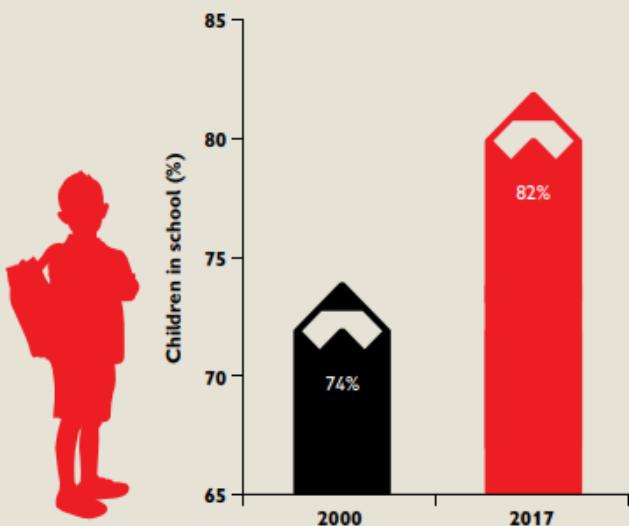
Key Findings

More Children Are Attending School and Learning

33% decline in the out-of-school rate worldwide = Good Progress

Result: 115 million fewer children are out of school now than in 2000

4 OUT OF 5 CHILDREN ARE NOW IN SCHOOL



Note: Given as 100 minus the rate of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth of primary and secondary school age worldwide

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. UIS. Stat. Accessed 8 April 2019

But still children out of school rate in Afghanistan is

3.7 million

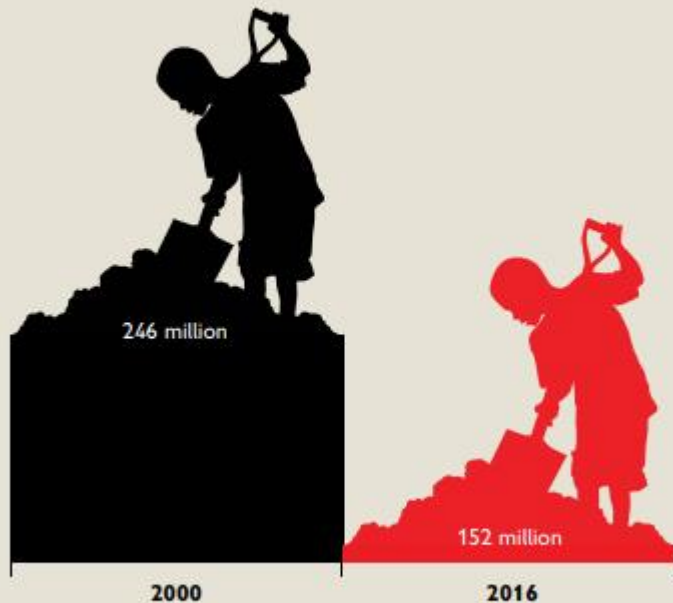
Key Findings

Fewer Children Are Forced into Work

40% decline in the child labor rate
worldwide = **Good Progress**

Result: **94 million fewer children in
child labor** now than in 2000

FAR FEWER CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED IN CHILD LABOR



Note: Figures reflect the absolute number of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labor.

Source: ILO. *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends, 2012-2016*

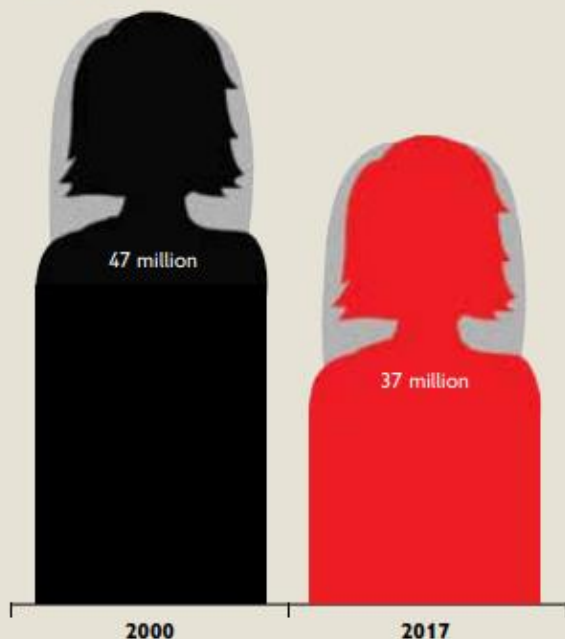
But in Afghanistan Children
engaged in child labor
(% ages 5-17)

29.4

Key Findings

Fewer Children Are Married Before Age 18

THE NUMBER OF MARRIED GIRLS
HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY
SINCE 2000



Note: Figures reflect the absolute number of girls aged 15-19 currently married or in union.

Source: Estimated by Save the Children from UN DESA, Population Division. *Estimates and Projections of Women of Reproductive Age Who Are Married or in a Union: 2018 Revision*, and UN DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects 2017*.

25% decline in the child marriage rate
worldwide = **Good Progress**

Result: **11 million fewer child brides** today
compared to 2000

But in Afghanistan Adolescents
Currently married (% girls
aged 15-19)

16.9

Key Findings

Fewer Girls Are Becoming Mothers

22% decline in the adolescent birth rate worldwide = **Fair Progress**

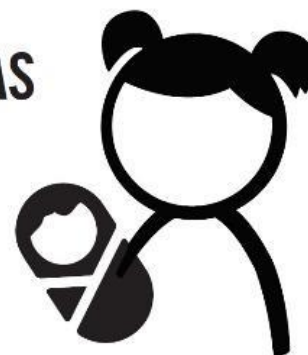
Result: 3 million fewer teen births per year now than in 2000

But in Afghanistan
Adolescent birth rate
(births per 1,000 girls aged
15-19) is

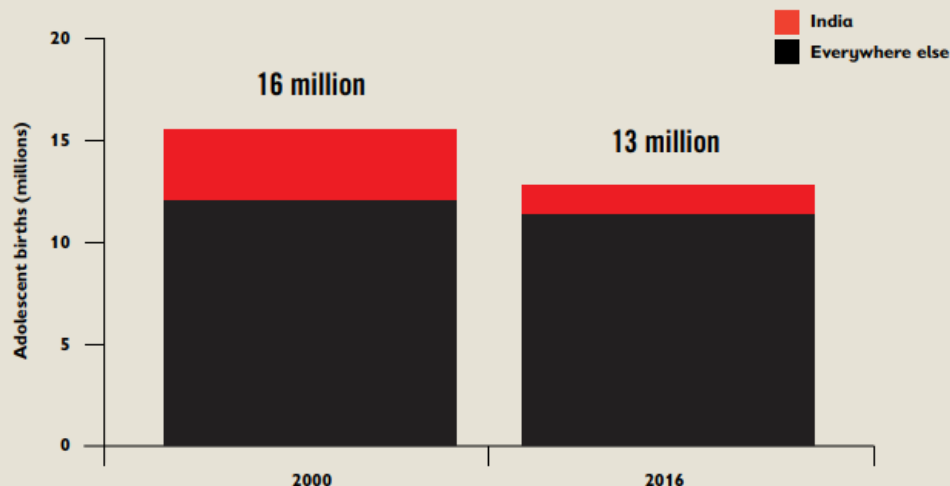
68.8

**CHILD HAS
A CHILD**

Every
two seconds,
a girl
gives birth.



PROGRESS IN INDIA DRIVES GLOBAL DECLINE IN ADOLESCENT BIRTHS



Source: Estimated by Save the Children from World Bank, Adolescent Fertility Rate (data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT, Accessed 8 April 2019) and UN DESA, Population Division, World Population Prospects 2017.

Fewer Girls Are Becoming Mothers: Afghanistan's Progress in Reducing Teen Births-Case Study

"I see a big difference in my life compared to my mother's," says Wajhia, age 17.

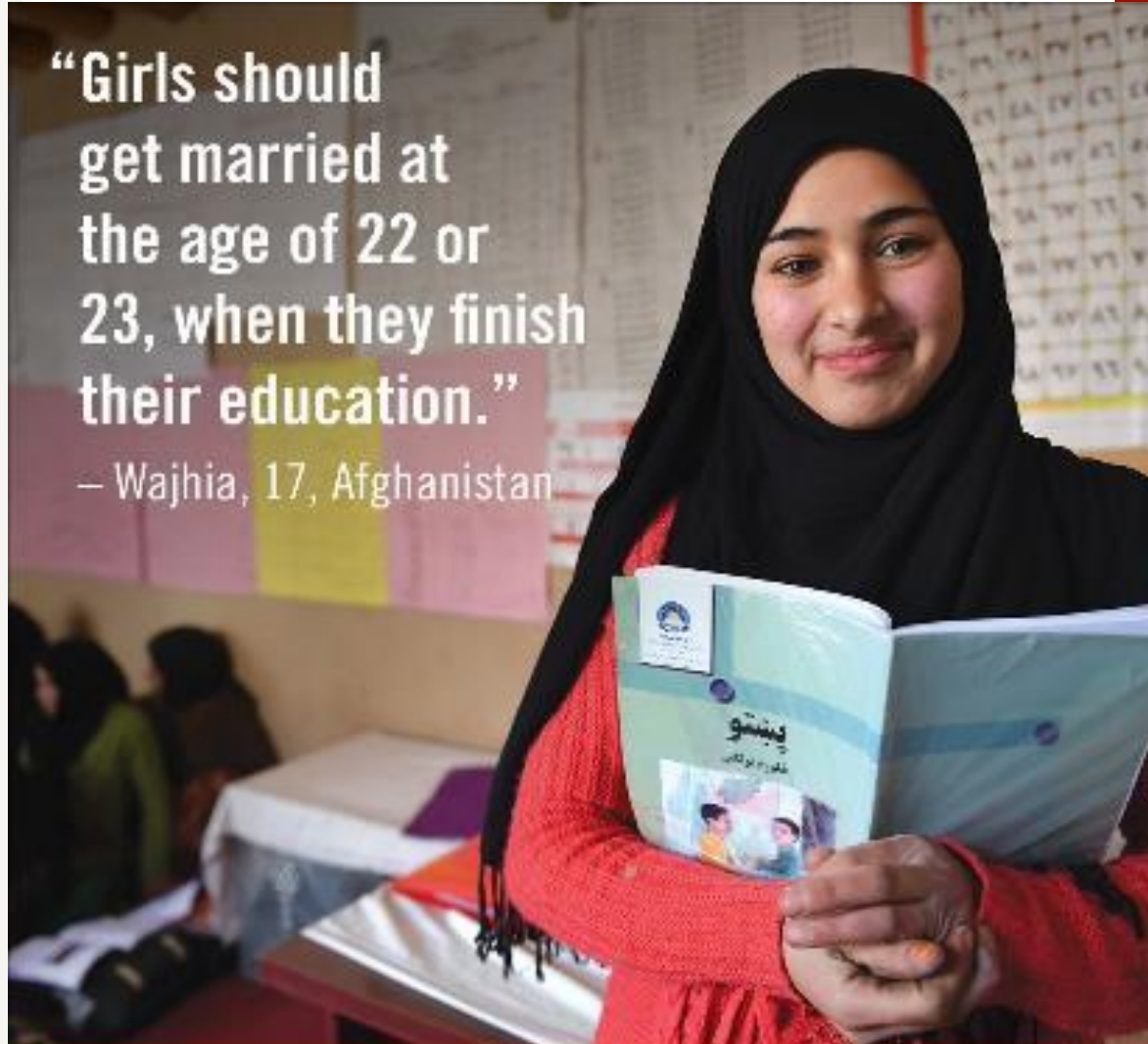
"My mother is illiterate and was married at 16. She struggled to raise nine children. I'm happy because if I was not attending school I would have been married last year."

Wajhia is an example of dramatic progress in just one generation in Afghanistan. In 2000, the country had one of the highest adolescent birth rates in the world (154 births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19). Today, that rate has been reduced by 55 percent (to 69 births per 1,000 girls).

Wajhia is an example of dramatic progress in just one generation in Afghanistan. In 2000, the country had one of the highest adolescent birth rates in the world (154 births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19).

"Girls should get married at the age of 22 or 23, when they finish their education."

— Wajhia, 17, Afghanistan



#ChildhoodReport

Save the Children

Prepared and delivered by: Samirullah Popal

Fewer Girls Are Becoming Mothers: Afghanistan's Progress in Reducing Teen Births-Case Study

Today, that rate has been reduced by 55 percent (to 69 births per 1,000 girls). The vast majority of teen births in Afghanistan were, and still are, the result of early marriage. This progress is especially impressive given that Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world and has endured decades of armed conflict. Also, limited data suggest equity gaps are relatively small, which means the poorest Afghan girls have benefitted as much as, if not more than, the average. One reason for the drop in teen births is that the fall of the Taliban was followed by a rise in aid from NATO countries that funded schools, maternal health and family planning services. Afghanistan's national health system communicated with girls, families and communities to raise awareness of the risks associated with child marriage and the benefits of smaller families.¹⁷³ Another reason for progress is that the Taliban's ban on schooling for girls was lifted by the Afghan government, and it launched a "back to school" campaign in 2002. Today, more Afghan women are getting an education and jobs, factors that typically delay the decision to start a family. Wajhia's mother is grateful for the Save the Children program that is educating her daughter and many other girls in their village. "It has saved them from being forced into early marriage and being deprived of their basic rights," she said. "I got married when I was very young. It took away all my dreams and aspirations. However, the situation is completely different for my daughter. I hope she becomes an influential woman in the future. I want my granddaughters to attend school starting at an early age so they can have the childhoods that Wajhia and I both did not have.

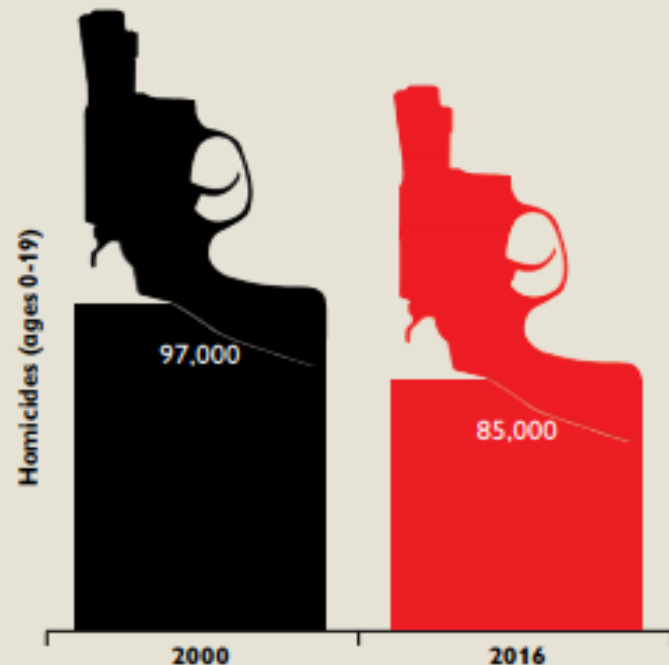
Key Findings

Fewer Children Are Being Murdered

17% decrease in the child homicide rate worldwide = **Fair Progress**

Result: 12,000 fewer children murdered per year now compared to 2000

30 FEWER CHILDREN ARE MURDERED EACH DAY



Note: These estimates have wide confidence intervals: [58,079-150,865] for 2000 and [44,514-141,984] for 2016.

Source: Save the Children's analysis of WHO, Global Health Estimates 2016: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2016. (Geneva:2018)



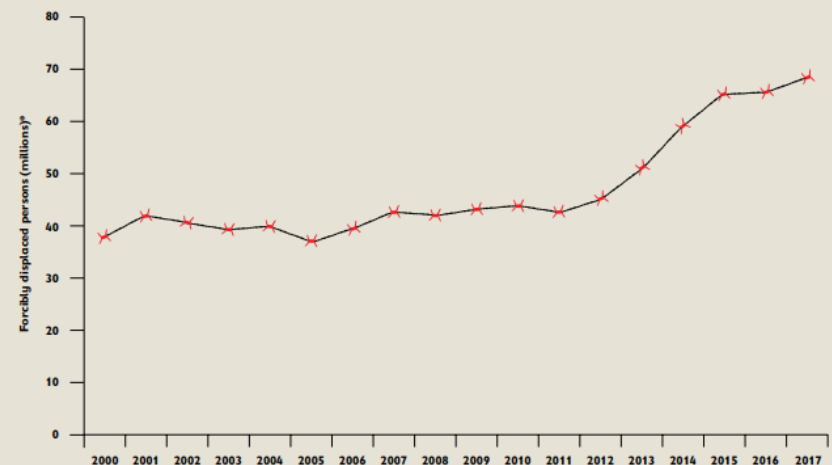
Key Findings

More Children Are Suffering Due to Conflict

80% increase in displacement due to conflict worldwide = **No Progress**

Result: **30.5 million more forcibly displaced people now than in 2000**¹⁸⁸

CONFLICTS ARE FORCING EVER GREATER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES



*Includes refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons. Sources: UNHCR, Global Trends 2017, UNHCR, Global Trends 2016, UNHCR Population Statistics Database, popstats.unhcr.org, Accessed 15 April 2019 and IDMC, Global Internal Displacement Database, internal-displacement.org/database, Accessed 15 April 2019

Recommendations

I. Steps to ensure all children have access to quality learning and improved learning outcomes:

- Create national plans to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, safe and quality basic education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes, including literacy, numeracy and social-emotional skills.
- Provide sufficient, gender-responsive and more equitable allocation of public resources to deliver safe, inclusive and equitable quality education, with a focus on those left behind.
- Ensure that donor governments commit to supporting countries to mobilize domestic resources to increase investment in education.
- Advocate for G20 leaders to commit to bring reforms in the global tax system that will enable countries to expand their tax base to increase domestic budget.
- Ensure that donor governments provide external resources and contribute to multilateral institutions such as the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait.
- Follow through on G7 commitments to close the gap in access to education during conflict and crisis, and for refugees and the internally displaced (especially for girls), including through prioritizing a gender responsive approach across the continuum of immediate humanitarian response and long-term development programming, and by identifying and addressing the specific gender-related barriers faced by girls in accessing education.



Recommendations

2. Steps to stop the war on children:

- Uphold international standards by strengthening child protection principles in military doctrine and trainings, regulating and improving transparency on international arms transfers, and committing to sign and implement international standards and laws critical to protecting children, including the Safe Schools Declaration, Arms Trade Treaty, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Paris Principles and Commitments.
- Hold perpetrators of crimes against children to account through judicial and political mechanisms and support international and domestic mechanisms to prosecute cases of violations of children's rights in conflict.
- Take practical action to protect children and support their recovery by increasing multi-year investments in humanitarian child protection, ensuring mental health and psychosocial support for children and their families are well resourced and mainstreamed, increasing investments in education and programs to address sexual and gender-based violence, and including children in peacemaking and peacebuilding initiatives.

Recommendations

3. Steps to empower all girls and end child marriage:

- Be held accountable to girls for accelerating progress for advancing girls' rights in order to end child marriage and its consequences and increase gender equality. This includes commitments to: – Accelerate action to address child marriage at national, regional, and international levels through utilization of transparent accountability mechanisms. – Ensure development and implementation of costed national action plans to end child marriage and ensure the meaningful participation and engagement of girls and community leaders – traditional and religious – in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of such plans.
- Increase donor and national government investment to end child marriage and mitigate its consequences through gender-responsive budgeting across sectors and stand-alone financing for gender equality, including increased funding to support the provision of and access to sexual and reproductive health services and information, protection from all forms of violence, and safe, quality education for the most deprived and marginalized girls.
- Work together to empower girls as agents of change in their own lives and communities and transform patriarchal laws and social norms that allow and accept child marriage and other forms of sexual and gender based violence.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive database on child marriage in humanitarian contexts to fill current gaps that hamper addressing comprehensively the drivers of the practice as well as the needs of already married girls.

Thanks

Please click below to access the full report:
[Global Childhood Index Report 2019](#)