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for every child

**Social Policy
Publication Catalogue
East Asia and Pacific**

For every child, evidence

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09 November 2020, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Portrait of Leng Sreyhouy, 10 years old.

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Acknowledgement

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Introduction

The Social Policy Publication Catalogue is the gateway to our collection of 77 reports, studies, and references from important events that UNICEF Country Offices and the Regional Office have generated/organized. The features reflect experiences of UNICEF in East Asia and Pacific and the use of research and data analysis to create programmes, campaigns, and initiatives where they are needed most for the benefits of children. The catalogue categorizes publications by countries and thematic areas:

- **Part 1** is organized by countries
- **Part 2** is organized by thematic area
 - Child Poverty
 - Public Finance for Children
 - Social Protection and
 - Cross-cutting topics

Each publication in the catalogue includes details of authors/contributors, web links, dates of publication and contact details for obtaining additional information.

Cambodia

Country Brief: Rapid Review of Global Social Protection Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had adverse effects on every area of our lives and the vulnerable have been most affected. Evidence gathered by UNICEF and its partners around the world shows that children have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and its adverse effects are not just those that have been observed immediately but it is likely to have far-reaching consequences on their lives. In response, countries have been able to use various social protection responses and other measures to ease the immediate and long-term effects of COVID-19 on children. To draw important lessons from these interventions and enrich the evidence base for on-going decision making, the Evaluation Office launched a global and country level review of social protection responses that been instituted.

This report is a result of a review of the country's COVID-19 response that brings together evidence from document reviews, data analysis, key informant interviews and stakeholder validation webinars that has been outlined under direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic, social protection responses, analysis of gaps and key findings and conclusions. It is anticipated that the review will support decision-making at country level in future programming for social protection interventions by providing key insights on actionable conclusions for improving social protection responses based on the analysis of the depth COVID-19 impact and outlining the effects of various response actions that were undertaken.



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[Social Protection](#)

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Cambodia

COVID-19 Socio-economic impact assessment - Reporting on a high-frequency survey of 2000 households across Cambodia that seeks to better understand the changing needs of the most vulnerable

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented challenges for all societies around the world. National governments have employed strategies to avoid overwhelming their health systems –such as business and school closures, quarantine, and lockdown measures – which have affected the livelihood and wellbeing of millions of people, especially children. Cambodia has shown great success in isolating cases of COVID-19 and even reducing the incidence level to zero for several months in a row. Nevertheless, the strategy in place has drastically affected many industries that were key sources of employment for Cambodians. Surveys that analyse the COVID-19 impacts on people’s livelihoods and wellbeing, such as this one, are a powerful source of information to guide evidence-based actions that can minimize impacts and protect the most vulnerable children.

This study aims to provide evidence on the short-, mid-, and long-term secondary impacts of COVID-19 on society, livelihoods, economic activity, food security, access to essential services and well-being, in addition to exploring household vulnerabilities. The report presents the objectives of the study and methodology of assessment and includes six thematic areas of findings that reveal the COVID-19 impacts on Cambodia. Phase One, covered by this report, went from August 2020 to March 2021 and was a collaboration of UNICEF with WFP, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UN Women. Phase Two was implemented from March 2021 to March 2022, with Phase III planned in collaboration with WFP and ADB to cover the period till end of 2022.



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Cambodia

Disability Census Thematic Report

Cambodia's most recent Census was completed in 2019. Building on the Census data, development of a series of thematic reports was initiated by the National Institute of Statistics. The Disability Census Thematic Report uses the Census 2019 data to provide a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic status of Persons with Disability in Cambodia.

The overview of the normative and policy framework sets out the framework for the analysis, the report provides in-depth analysis of the household characteristics of persons with disability in Cambodia, their living standards, education, economic activity and migration patterns. Special-focus chapters analyze the key indicators linked to children and young people with disability as well as older persons with disability. A separate chapter provides in-depth analysis of gender and disability in Cambodia.



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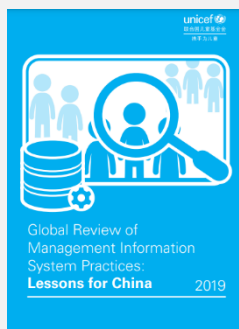
China

Global Review of Management Information System Practices: Lessons from China

The integration of multiple management information systems can bring about significant gains by ensuring efficient and effective delivery of social assistance programmes. This report aims to contribute ideas for developing an Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) for China's social assistance programmes.

This report is based on a desk review of China's social assistance literature and broader international literature on IMIS and on interviews with key informants, including Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), UNICEF and researchers with deep understanding of China's social assistance.

The report provides overviews of the MISs in minimum livelihood guarantee (or Dibao) and the Household Income and Asset Verification System (HIAVS), and then reviews the design and use of IMISs in Brazil, Turkey, Indonesia, South Africa and Uruguay to identify lessons from international experiences for China to develop an IMIS for China's social assistance programmes.



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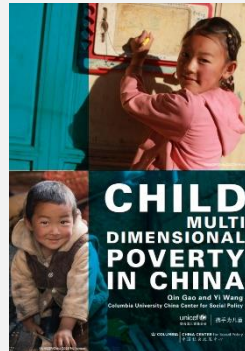


China

Child Multidimensional Poverty in China

The Chinese government reported eradicating rural extreme poverty at the end of 2020, which is a significant achievement. Goal 1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”, and Goal 1.2 is to “reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions by 2030”. Measures of child poverty in China from both monetary and multidimensional perspectives would be timely for China’s post-2020 anti-poverty policy agenda.

The purpose of this report is to inform policymakers and the public about the levels, trends, and patterns of child multidimensional poverty in China, and how they compare with child income poverty. This report has four specific objectives. First, it presents the level and intensity of child multidimensional poverty in national, rural, urban, and migrant populations and how they changed from 2013 to 2018. Second, it compares child multidimensional poverty by gender and age groups to see if significant group differences existed, and whether such differences— if any— changed over time. Third, it investigates the overlap and divergence of child multidimensional poverty and income poverty in the respective national, rural, urban, and migrant populations, and across 2013 and 2018. Fourth, it classifies children into four mutually exclusive groups (nonpoor, multidimensional poor only, income poor only, and both multidimensional and income poor) and investigates which demographic and socioeconomic characteristics were significantly associated with a child’s odds of being in any of these groups in 2013 and 2018.



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East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

Delivering for Children- Social Protection Responses to COVID-9 in East Asia and the Pacific

The COVID-19 pandemic is casting a long shadow in countries across the world and has quickly moved beyond a health crisis alone. As the UN Secretary General stated in The Impact of COVID-19 on Children: “Children are not the face of this pandemic. But they risk being among its biggest victims.” To understand the complex socio-economic impact of COVID19 on children and their families, we must look at three different streams.

Without the right vision, the right planning, and the right investments, the future could be bleak for millions of children. But there is hope and a resolve from UNICEF to rise from this pandemic building a stronger future for all children, and their countries.



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East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

Social Protection Research and Policy Conference: From Evidence to Action in Asia and Pacific

For the past three years (and until December 2021), UNICEF EAPRO's Support Initiative on Social Protection, established through a series of long-term agreements (LTA) with different organizations, has enabled UNICEF to enhance the quality, timeliness, consistency, and continuity of its technical support to governments on Social Protection.

The initiative, originally designed for Asia and the Pacific, was opened also to other countries around the world. Drawing on the wealth of evidence produced throughout the lifespan of the Social Protection Support Initiative, UNICEF EAPRO is launching a call for papers for a Regional Social Protection Research and Policy Conference and following edited book to take stock of the impact and results for children generated by those analytical products and related technical assistance. The overarching objective of the conference was to discuss how evidence generated on social protection has influenced the debate and action in Asia and the Pacific and beyond. The conference and the following publication focused on sharing evidence-based policy making processes resulting from UNICEF's work and fostering cross-country learning across regions. In particular 1. Building on the evidence generated in Asia and Pacific, 2. Documenting its use and impact, and 3. Collectively reflecting on the challenges and the way forward.



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East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

ASEAN: Financing Responses to disasters and shocks: Experiences, opportunities and challenges in Disaster Risk Financing and Disaster Responsive Social Protection in South East Asia

This online consultation, chaired by the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division (ACDM) of the Sustainable Development Directorate of the ASEAN Secretariat, discussed the linkages (or lack of) between social protection and disaster risk financing in Southeast Asia; shared the findings from a regional landscape analysis undertaken by UNICEF; and brainstormed on the scope of possible policy actions in accordance with the ASEAN DRSP Guidelines.

Drawing on the research findings and lessons learnt in the past few years, including from the unprecedented Covid-19 responses, the consultation drew on the opportunities and challenges in financing DRSP systems to protect the most vulnerable from a broad scope of risks including poverty, natural disasters, pandemics and climate risks in Southeast Asia.



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East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

5th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action 2021

The Regional Office presented work on Anticipatory Action- Financing Responses to Shocks – Connecting the Dots at the Asia Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action on October 20th (Day 2 of the event). Andrea Rossi, UNICEF Regional Advisor for Social Policy and Economic Analysis, discussed how connecting the dots is imperative to financing responses to shocks and elaborated on UNICEF's A3D layered approach to the development of Risk Financing tools that highlights key enablers like risk analytics and disaster risk financing strategy.



Organizer(s):

Hosted by the Anticipation Hub, jointly organized by the German Red Cross (GRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Start Network

Date of Event:

19-21 October 2021

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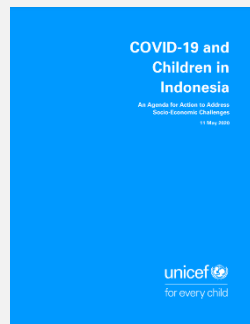


Indonesia

COVID-19 and Children in Indonesia: An Agenda for Action to Address Socio-economic Challenges

Without urgent action, the disruptions caused by COVID-19 will have lifelong consequences for the safety, well-being and future of children in Indonesia, UNICEF said today in a new position brief outlining the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and new recommendations to help mitigate their effects.

The position brief, COVID-19 and Children in Indonesia: An Agenda for Action to address Socio-Economic Challenges, finds evidence that the virus is already causing widespread income insecurity for families across the country, many of whom are not covered by social protection programmes which mostly target the extreme poor.



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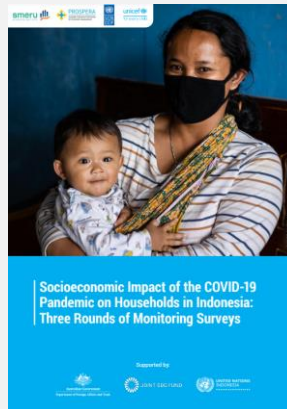


Indonesia

Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Households and Strategic Policy Recommendations for Indonesia: Three Rounds of Monitoring Surveys

Conducted between December 2020 and January 2021, these surveys track the following key changes in households' socioeconomic conditions: employment, income, resilience to shocks, schooling, reach of social protection, access to immunization and health services. These surveys enabled us to monitor the socioeconomic situation of approximately 2,400 households from across Indonesia who took part in all rounds of survey. This includes the full survey from 15 October to 17 November 2020, and the additional three rounds of monitoring surveys – the first round conducted from 7 to 19 December 2020, the second round from 21 December 2020 to 6 January 2021, and the third round from 8 to 22 January 2021.

The results of these monitoring surveys paint a picture of a time when Indonesia was acclimatizing to the 'new normal'. This was a period when restrictions on social mobility had just been lifted, with the resumption of economic activities, but infection rates remained high, and schools were largely closed. There was also some economic progress towards the end of 2020, as evidenced in the key macroeconomic indicators. Despite this modest rebound, the monitoring surveys conducted during the period show that many were struggling.



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Indonesia

Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Child Poverty and Mobility in Indonesia

This policy brief explores how the economic shocks resulting from COVID-19 affect child poverty and the success of social protection measures aimed at mitigating the impact. The impact of the shock caused by the pandemic is measured using “with-without” comparisons; that is, the difference in children’s well-being under three scenarios: No COVID-19, COVID-19, and COVID-19 & social protection mitigation measures.

The analysis was conducted using a dynamic microsimulation model designed to forecast indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, which was built using Indonesia’s national socio-economic survey (Susenas) and macro-economic projections from the Fiscal Policy Agency of the Ministry of Finance.



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Indonesia

Data for Decision Making During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Indonesia

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undermine Indonesia's recent development gains. Understanding the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic on child well-being is essential to developing a comprehensive response and requires timely data. At the same time, physical distancing restrictions have made it difficult to conduct facility and population-based assessments. Innovations in real-time data collection and visualization, complemented by big-data analytics and artificial intelligence, provide an alternate approach that is safe, rapid and comprehensive.

In collaboration with UNICEF's Innovation Team in New York and with the support of our Regional Technology-for-Development office in Bangkok, UNICEF Indonesia has been supporting the government's COVID-19 response through a range of cutting-edge data platforms and partnerships.



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Indonesia

Analysis of the Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Households and Strategic Policy Recommendations for Indonesia

The arrival of COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges for the world. In Indonesia, the coronavirus has infected more than a million people since the first confirmed cases in March 2020 and tens of thousands have died. Coronavirus curbs on the economy and society continue to have a shocking impact on human development. After years of progress, poverty is rising again. One in ten people in Indonesia today are living below the national poverty line and child poverty may increase significantly. The social impact would have been far worse had it not been for government assistance. Indonesia has continued to invest in strengthening its social protection programs to respond to the crisis. These have been expanded to protect today's poor against major shocks as well as a growing number of low- and middle-income earners who have become vulnerable and are at risk of becoming tomorrow's poor.

To assess the impact of COVID-19 on Indonesia's households and to inform government policies, UNICEF, UNDP, Prospera, the SMERU Research Institute and the National Statistics Office (BPS) collaborated on a ground-breaking survey in October-November 2020. In an effort to understand the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on women, families with children, vulnerable groups, and people with disabilities, the largest household survey recorded in Indonesia was launched between October and December 2020. Through qualitative interviews, over 12,000 families — across 34 provinces and 247 districts — were surveyed. The results revealed information about the impact of COVID-19 on employment, micro-businesses, food security, access to health, educational services and access to social protection programmes. On a deeper level, it provided insight into the impact of the pandemic on children's development and wellbeing.



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Indonesia

One Year On COVID-19 Through the Eyes of Children

When COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in early March 2020, only a few confirmed cases of the virus had been detected in Indonesia. One month later, despite the introduction of physical distancing measures, COVID-19 was confirmed in all 34 provinces. COVID-19 is threatening hard-won development gains, from child and maternal health and nutrition to education, child protection and social services – and further burdening an already weak water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure.

From the outset of the pandemic, UNICEF took decisive action and provided core support to the Government of Indonesia. One year on, existing inequalities are exacerbated, and children risk being among the pandemic's biggest victims. One year on, there is also a vaccine. The first shipment through the COVAX facility has arrived in Indonesia and healthcare workers, teachers and other key workers are receiving their vaccinations.

The stories in this document provide a brief insight into how children in Indonesia experienced the COVID-19 pandemic.



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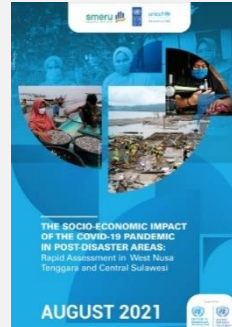


Indonesia

The Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Post-Disaster Areas Rapid Assessment in West Nusa Tenggara and Sulawesi

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable people. In post disaster areas in Indonesia, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of vulnerable people must be further understood in order to counteract the impacts of recession. The earthquakes in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) and Central Sulawesi in 2018, triggered a range of natural disasters, creating loss of life, loss of livelihood, shelter and significant economic loss for more than 1.8 million people. Amongst these, children were severely impacted having to cope with the trauma of the natural disasters, resulting in the loss of life and disturbance to their every-day lives.

In mid-2020, UNICEF, UNDP and the SMERU Research Institute partnered to conduct a rapid assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these post-disaster zones and the impact on vulnerable households. This study aimed to uncover the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on key areas of life of the communities in these areas that includes: impact on income, access to education and services, wellbeing and means of coping with economic loss, among others. With support and funding from the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recover Multi-Partner Trust Fund, this study was able to be conducted in the most affected areas in West Nusa Tenggara and Central Sulawesi.



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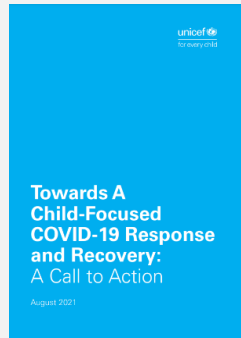


Indonesia

Towards a Child-focused COVID-19 Response and Recovery: A Call to Action

More than a year into the pandemic, children and adolescents in Indonesia face a challenging 'new normal' - more than 80 million children have been affected by the widespread secondary impacts of the pandemic. The education of millions of children and adolescents has been disrupted; access to health, nutrition and protection services has been severely impacted; and families have struggled to stay afloat financially. As a result, existing inequalities have been exacerbated, particularly those related to gender, poverty and disability.

Drawing from different analysis of policy responses and research findings, this brief proposes actions towards a more child-focused COVID-19 response and recovery. In particular, the brief reveals the pandemic's impact in six areas: (1) poverty; (2) learning; (3) health; (4) mental health, childcare and child protection; (5) nutrition; and (6) access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services. Further to this, it elaborates on policy actions taken during the pandemic and recommends for child-sensitive actions to address and mitigate impacts. This policy brief aims to encourage and inform the public and all stakeholders involved in children's wellbeing and development on policy recommendations.



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Indonesia

Keeping in Touch with People's Experiences of COVID-19 in Indonesia

This study aims to bring faces, stories, and highlight local perspectives into how families and other people across Indonesia have been dealing with changes and uncertainty during the pandemic, in both urban and rural contexts. Utilising the pre-existing relationships that Empatika researchers have with a variety of families across Indonesia, this longitudinal study was conducted remotely over a nine-month period between June 2020 and February 2021, and included 45 families living in 23 districts across Indonesia who shared insights on their experiences and those of their surrounding communities on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on families' main concerns during the initial listening phase, the following three rounds of data collection focused on three thematic areas: learning and social lives of children; health and hygiene; and livelihoods and social assistance. Insights on each of these themes were captured in separate research briefs, as well as synthesized into a summary brief that looks back across the entire study period.



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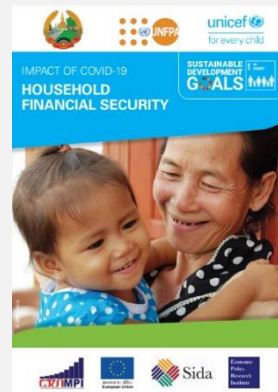


Lao PDR

Impact of COVID-19 on household financial security

The global shock triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has had a direct impact on Lao PDR's economy in 2020. Lao PDR is expected to see a growth contraction, with an expected GDP growth rate between -1 per cent and -1.8 per cent. The sectors most at risk include tourism and hospitality services, manufacturing (garment sector), arts and entertainment and transportation, with indirect effects of the lockdown measures on agriculture and fisheries. Within and across industries, small and medium enterprises, the self-employed, and daily wage earners are being hit the hardest. Households associated with these sectors are at a high risk of losing their livelihoods or suffering catastrophic economic losses in the short-term; in the long-term there will be impacts on poverty and vulnerability. Women in Lao PDR are more likely to work in high-risk sectors due to COVID-19 (e.g. the entertainment sector, garment industries, tourism, and related industries) and more likely to engage as daily wage, migrant, or informal workers.

On average, women in Lao PDR already earn 20 per cent less in hourly wages than men, in part due to lower rates of secondary school completion and high adolescent fertility rates. These factors put working women and those relying on them at high risk of poverty and deprivation. Job and income losses are most prevalent in the short to medium term for those in the tourism and manufacturing sectors due to movement restrictions and the global lockdown. For migrant workers, the loss of income may be more prolonged, and the cost of job searches higher once countries open borders.



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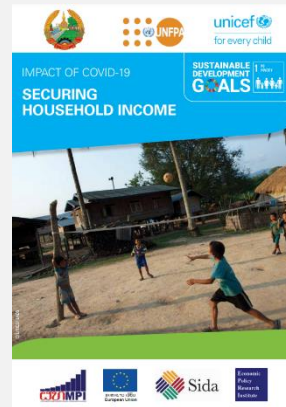


Lao PDR

Impact of COVID-19 on securing household income

According to the Lao PDR Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS) of 2012/13, the national poverty head count rate has declined by about 50% since 1992/3 - 23.2% (from 33.5% in 1992/93) of the population still living under the federal poverty line, and as many as about 80 per cent of the population still lives dangerously close to the poverty line (under USD 2.50 per day) with a 10% likelihood of falling back into poverty without a shock of the COVID-19 pandemic's magnitude. Akin to trends elsewhere, poverty tends to be concentrated in rural areas, with specific ethnic dimensions. The poverty rate is the highest among the Mon-Khmer (42.3 per cent) and Hmonglu-Mien (39.8 per cent) ethnic groups.

In households where livelihoods are severely affected, the COVID-19 shock could enhance the intergenerational transmission of poverty in two ways. First, as a coping strategy, caregivers could be forced to reduce spending on children's education and health. Given the centrality of education for labour productivity and finding employment in the formal economy, these shocks could increase the number of children experiencing multidimensional poverty and reinforce poverty traps. Children who are born into poverty often face layers of suffering such as malnutrition, illness, and limited social capital. This makes upward social mobility extremely difficult, and in the absence of adequate social welfare nets, poverty tends to reproduce itself. Second, another prominent mechanism to cope with loss is by selling household assets, such as land, livestock, and equipment. These coping strategies are not easily reversible, in that they reduce the future ability to cope with stress, thereby intensifying vulnerabilities. The sale of these assets, which could have been transferred to future generations, increase the likelihood of intergenerational poverty transmission.



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Lao PDR

Report of Multidimensional Child poverty using LECS 6

The Lao People's Democratic Republic has seen significant economic growth over the last few decades. Nevertheless, a percentage of the population, including children, still live in poverty. The 2022 Child poverty report utilized the Lao Expenditure and consumption survey to analyze Multidimensional poverty in Laos. It focuses on the variety of goods and services needed to satisfy a child's material needs.

This report will provide an analysis of multidimensional child poverty disaggregated by gender, age and geographic location in Lao PDR. It will provide valuable insight to strategies, plans and budgets to tackle multidimensional child poverty in Lao PDR. The report will also support the government to monitor the situation of children in the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the National Plan of Action for Mothers and Children, both documents dedicated to reducing child poverty in the country. Laos has committed to reducing child poverty by 25% by 2025.



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Malaysia

Families on the Edge: Factsheet (Issue 3)

Families on the Edge 3 continues to track the impact of the dynamic COVID-19 crisis on low income families, focusing on how key socio-economic indicators changed over the CMCO period (October 14, 2020 – December 23, 2020). Insecurity of employment among female headed households is particularly highlighted. It also provides insights on fiscal pressures experienced by households, especially for single mothers, the disabled and those with chronic illness.

Also highlighted in the report is the prevalence of stress among respondents where 1 in 3 of female Head of Household has experienced increased stress compared to previous cycle of data collection in September 2020. Major concerns are inability to provide enough food for the family, lack of employment opportunities and not having enough money to provide proper education for their children.



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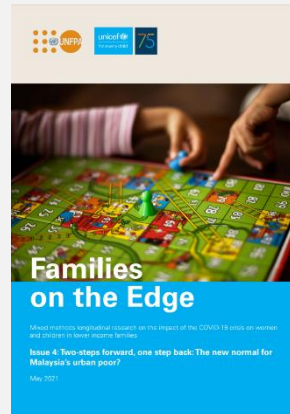


Malaysia

Families on the Edge: Two steps forward, one step back. The new normal for Malaysia's urban poor? (Issue 4)

The Families on the Edge research project was commissioned by UNICEF and UNFPA to support evidence-informed policy-making and public dialogue on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and children in low-income urban families in Malaysia, as well as the relevance, adequacy and accessibility of public policy responses to the pandemic. The project involved a series of data collection and analysis on key changes of surveying 500 low-income households living in sixteen of Kuala Lumpur's public housing estates in March to May 2020, May - September 2020, October - December 2020 and March 2021. Minireports or statistical updates have been published after each of these surveys and a consolidated final analytical report is planned for May 2021. Given its focus on the residents of Kuala Lumpur's low-cost public housing estates, Families on the Edge is not intended to provide nationally representative data but rather aims to provide specific insights into the experiences of Malaysia's urban low-income families who comprise around 10 per cent of Malaysia's population.

This report is the final in the series and was conducted in March 2021 – almost exactly a year after the first COVID-19 Movement Control Order came into force. The reports provide data on a large number of indicators that have been tracked over the course of the project, while also providing insights on the future prospects for the participant families. The project concludes with indicative policy recommendations for consideration by the Government of Malaysia and other stakeholders.



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Mongolia

Child-focused Subnational Budget Analysis

UNICEF Mongolia is working closely with the Mongolian Ministry of Finance (MoF) to increase investment in children by strengthening national child-friendly budgeting capacity. In this context, the child-focused local budget analysis was being launched in Bayankhongor, Zavkhan, Gobi-Altai and Umnugobi Aimags, and Bayanzurkh District in the capital city, as part of the UNICEF Child-Friendly Communities Initiative.

The primary purpose of the analysis is to clarify how child-friendly measures are reflected in annual budgets approved at the local level, the coherence of planning and policy, difficulties in the budgeting process, and opportunities to increase local funds. The analysis is based on budget documents and includes financial support from the State budget to local budgets; special purpose transfers (SPTs); and aimag, capital city, district, and soum budgets approved by local Citizens Representatives' Hural (CRHs) over the last three years (2017-2019).

This document seeks to provide an overview of the composition of local budget revenues and expenditures and the core of the provincial budget planning process based on information provided by the government officials and the consultant. It also outlines a methodology and plans for breaking down and analyzing selected local budgets to identify potential sources of funding for children, which is a vital issue.



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Mongolia

Summary Report: Assessment of the Government of Mongolia's Shock Responsive Vertical Expansion of Social Assistance in Response to Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is testing the readiness of social protection systems around the world to respond to economic shocks affecting broad segments of the population. The Government of Mongolia (GoM) has implemented a significant package of measures to help households cope, including a number of social protection measures that cover both those traditionally targeted by non-contributory social assistance (i.e. the poor and vulnerable), as well as wider groups covered by contributory social insurance schemes and subsidies.

This report presents the findings of an assessment of the temporary emergency vertical expansion of two major social assistance programs of the GoM: the Child Money Program (CMP), a near-universal child grant, and the Food Stamp Program (FSP), a poverty-targeted voucher program. The vast majority of FSP beneficiaries also therefore received the CMP. The assessment looks at:

1. the effects of pandemic-related shocks on household income and spending;
2. coping strategies employed by households;
3. usage of the cash top-ups by beneficiary households;
4. core aspects of top-up implementation.



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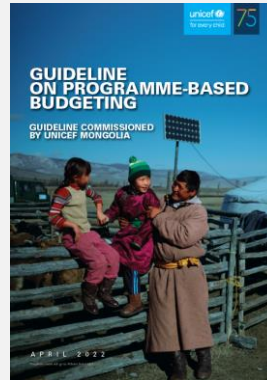
Mongolia

Guideline on Programme-based Budgeting

In any welfare state, social protection is one of the most important areas of state development. A valuable area of Mongolia's activities in child protection and development is the improvement of existing legislation, including the implementation of international laws. As a result, Mongolia is a party in a number of international documents in the field of children's rights protection.

The Ministry implements a policy aimed at ensuring the rights of children to live in a healthy and safe environment, their education, development, protection, and participation in public life. Involving other sectors strengthens the national child protection system and prevents violations of children's rights, labor exploitation, and crime. Improving the national legal environment governing the protection of children's rights has significantly reduced the mortality rate of children, including those under the age of five, the backlog of children under the age of 5, and there are numerous care and guardianship centers where children are brought up and educated. However, there are currently significant shortcomings that cannot be overcome by legal reform alone.

To overcome these challenges, there is a need for a balanced allocation of financial resources and their effective targeted use. Therefore, Mongolia's social protection system now needs to ensure a favorable, efficient, and sustainable financial situation for the child. Effective management of budget expenditures, which is an important part of fiscal policy, allows ensuring, inter alia, the improvement of activities to uphold the rights and well-being of every Mongolian child.



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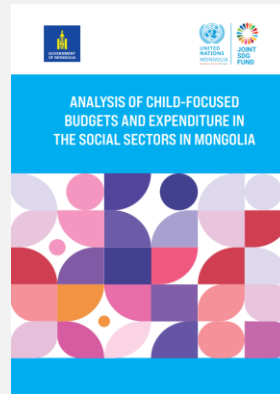
Availability:
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Mongolia

Analysis of Child-Focused Budgets and Expenditure in the Social Sectors in Mongolia

The analysis aimed to generate evidence-based information that will promote greater visibility of children's issues in the Government of Mongolia's budget processes; and contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of public expenditure on children.

It also assessed the extent to which budgets and expenditures in the education, health, social protection, and child protection sectors are aligned to child-focused policy commitments in these sectors. This will serve to demonstrate whether strategic planning is feeding through to effective expenditure.



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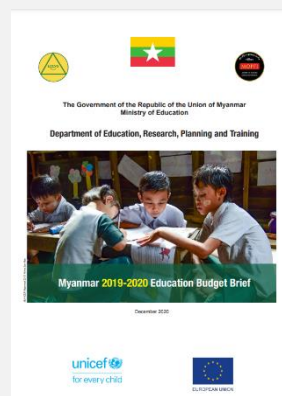


Myanmar

Education Budget Brief

The Myanmar 2019-20 Education Budget Brief is the second publication of a joint initiative between MoE, MoPFI and UNICEF, which seeks to support the sector's efforts to strengthen Public Financial Management (PFM), drawing a line between the sector's budgetary allocations, its financial management and the results in education. The objective is to encourage transparency, accountability and effectiveness in public education by strengthening budgetary processes and improving the service delivery outcomes.

This exercise was led by DERPT (Department of Education Research, Planning and Training) of Ministry of Education (MoE), and involving all Ministry departments, financial review of Department of Budget from Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI) with technical support from UNICEF Education and Social Policy Sections.



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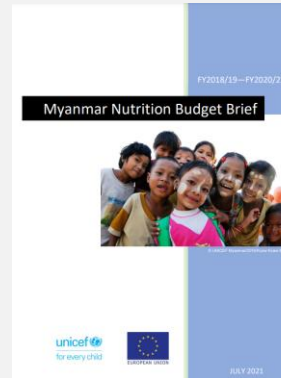


Myanmar

Budget Brief Nutrition

Child survival and good health are the foundations of national development and prosperity. In Myanmar, many children still struggle to achieve the right start in life. Nutrition is fundamental to these goals and a key area of UNICEF support to Myanmar. UNICEF recognizes that children's ill health and malnutrition have many causes and need to be tackled through building a robust and integrated health system and removing critical delivery bottlenecks. Investing in children's health and nutrition is one of the smartest moves a country can make. Health and nutrition investments help break the cycle of poverty, boost productivity and reduce non-communicable diseases.

This Budget Brief is the first effort in Myanmar to examine nutrition-related budgets and expenditures following the development of the Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) 2018/19 – 2022/23 and the subsequent sub-national plans 2019/20 – 2023/24. This brief covers only government budgets and expenditures and focuses on the five ministries leading the implementation of the MS-NPAN: Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS); Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC); Education (MoE); Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MoALI); and Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement (MoSWRR).



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Myanmar

Rural Water Budget Brief

This 2018/19 Myanmar Rural Water Budget Brief is an initiative of the Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI)'s, with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank (WB) as technical partners; and the European Union, via its support to the EU-UNICEF Public Finance Facility.

With this budget brief, DRD aims to promote sector's budget transparency, strengthen sector's public financial management and reinforce resource mobilization for rural water services in Myanmar. It intends to do so in full alignment with the intentions of Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI)'s PFM Strategy and the prospects of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP).



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Myanmar

Budget Brief Social Welfare

This budget brief is an important step forward for the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) in achieving these objectives. Since 2017, the DSW has received very significant increases in its share of the national budget, which has enabled the roll-out of new flagship programmes. With an increase in budget, the DSW has also taken steps to improve internal budget processes. Building on these achievements to date, this budget brief aims to achieve two key objectives: first, to present a concise and accessible overview of social welfare spending patterns to different stakeholders involved in the sector; and second, to contribute to the existing evidence base for informing decision making around future resource allocation, building on the work conducted to date by the Finance and Administration department and others within DSW.

The analysis in the brief is based on expenditure incurred by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) – one of three departments within the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR). The timeline for most of the analysis spans from Financial Year (FY) 2014-15 to FY 2018 (mini budget). It also includes data on budget allocations for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 – especially for DSW's larger "flagship" programmes. Recently, the Department of Rehabilitation (DoR) was established in MSWRR, taking over functions from DSW and DDM, from FY 2018-19 onwards. However, since the time period for expenditure analysis in this brief is prior to FY 2018-19, all spending on rehabilitation up to FY 2018/19 was budgeted for under the DSW and is therefore included in the analysis.



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Under the cooperation with the Budget Department of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI); for the strengthening PFM of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR), with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), with guidance and technical assistance from UNICEF Myanmar and analytical capacities from the Oxford Policy Management (OPM).

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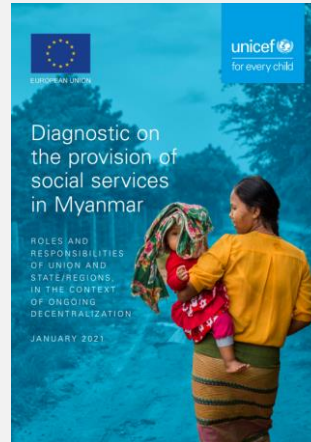


Myanmar

Diagnostic on the provision of social services in Myanmar

This Report documents the findings and recommendations of a diagnostic of the delivery of social services at sub-national level in Myanmar.

The objective is to clarify the roles, responsibilities, and local practices of States and Regions (S/Rs) in the provision of essential social services, with a focus on those areas with the highest impact on children. The recommendations will be used to inform UNICEF's support to the Government of Myanmar (GOM). The approach was designed around the three dimensions proposed in the TOR: 1. the legal framework – to understand the roles and responsibilities of government institutions in the provision of social programmes at sub-national level; 2. the situation on the ground – to identify the current practices; 3. an enhanced approach – to understand how UNICEF can tailor its support when strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders at sub-national level.



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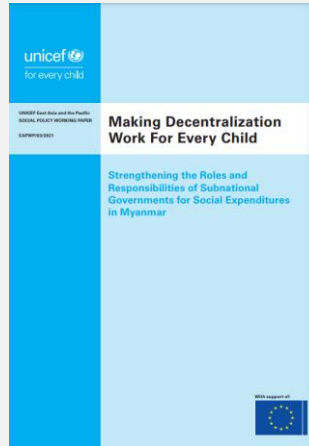
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Myanmar

Making Decentralization Work for Every Child

Drawing on the evidence brought by the “Diagnostic on the roles and Responsibilities in the Provision of Social Services Between Union and State/Region Levels” (UNICEF Myanmar, 2020), the policy brief provides an extra-effort to identify and propose concrete solutions for making decentralization work for the children of Myanmar.

This Policy Brief aims to clarify the political, administrative, and fiscal dimensions of State and Region (S/R) governments in the provision of essential social services, in the context of on-going decentralization. Myanmar’s subnational governments have the potential to contribute towards improved service delivery. The policy brief demonstrates that, whilst the 2008 Constitution and 2015 Amendment imposed limits on the role and responsibilities of S/R governments, social sectors are not yet close to these limits due to a lack of legislation that enables decentralization at the sectoral level. Furthermore, the policy brief points out transfer of limited fiscal resources to the S/R level limits the scope of subnational expenditures which mean that in practice, the social sectors (education, health, and social welfare) remain largely centralized, limiting the potential benefits of locally managed service delivery.



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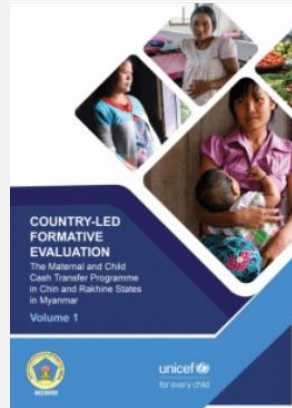
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Myanmar

Country-led Formative Evaluation: The Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme in Chin and Rakhine States in Myanmar

The Country-led Formative Evaluation of the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme in Chin and Rakhine States in Myanmar was commissioned by UNICEF Myanmar, in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare.

The primary purpose of this formative evaluation was to foster learning and improvement within the MCCT programme by reviewing the design and implementation modalities of the program. It also sought to set out lessons learned (from the MCCT programme and other cash transfer interventions in the region) to strengthen the programme in Chin and Rakhine to set the ground for scaling-up.



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Myanmar

Overcoming Child Poverty in Myanmar, Investing in Human Capital, Responding to COVID-19

The purpose of this report is to provide the Government of Myanmar, development partners and other stakeholders with a design for an effective socio-economic response to COVID-19, with a clear focus on children.

The report highlights the pre-existing vulnerabilities and risks faced by children in Myanmar. It relies on a rapid change monitoring exercise, an analysis of public finances and their allocation, and it presents simulated and forecasted changes, to advocate for specific policy reforms to protect children and support the country's development.



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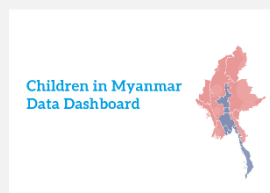
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Children in Myanmar Data Dashboard: A snapshot of the situation of children in Myanmar

This profile provides a snapshot of the situation of children in Myanmar, using available data from reports that are nationally and regionally representative, for both Union and State/Region levels. The major sources are the Intercensal Survey (2019), the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey (2017), Demographic Health Survey (2015-16), and Myanmar Population and Housing Census (2014).

While Myanmar has achieved improvements in education, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, and protection of children and communities, there are still children who are still left behind, requiring our obligations to fulfill their rights.



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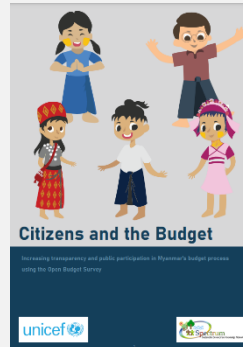


Myanmar

Citizen and the budget: Increasing transparency and public participation in Myanmar's budget process using the Open Budget Survey

Budget transparency matters for the children of Myanmar: transparency contributes to the nation's efforts to re-orient public investments towards the country's most precious resource — its children. To increase budget transparency, UNICEF and its partners support Myanmar's institutions to scrutinize budget proposals, improve evidence-based planning and budgeting in social sectors, and assist with the implementation of the budget. In addition, UNICEF and its partners work with local governments and civil society groups to create opportunities for citizens, including children and adolescents, to participate in budget decision-making and the monitoring of spending and outcomes.

The Open Budget Survey (OBS) is an invaluable tool to promote budget transparency. This booklet summarizes the key elements behind Myanmar's 2019 OBS score, analyzing major achievements from the last survey and providing specific recommendations on how to further improve budget transparency, citizen participation and budget oversight.



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Myanmar

Child Development and Human Capital Investing today to build the Myanmar tomorrow: How to invest in children using the HCI

This paper is part of UNICEF's Public Finance for Children work in Myanmar and specifically, of its partnership with Civil Society Organizations, to improve the knowledge and understanding, while providing support and recommendations to national stakeholders on how to contribute to investing in children.

The 2030 Agenda provides added impetus to UNICEF's efforts. It creates demand for better use of public funds for greater and more equitable results for children. The overarching goal of the PF4C Framework is to contribute to the realization of children's rights by supporting the best possible use.



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Pacific

Fact Sheet - Fiji MICS 2021 Preliminary Findings report

The results shown in this report are based on preliminary data, and are to be treated as such, although no changes are expected between values represented in this Fact Sheet and the Survey Findings Report and Thematic Statistical Snapshots that will be released later in 2021.

The Fiji Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2021 by Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) in collaboration with other government ministries as part of the Global MICS Programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Pacific Community (SPC) with funding of Government of Fiji, Government of New Zealand and financial support of UNICEF and UNFPA.



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Samoa 2019-20 DHS-MICS Survey Findings Report

This report is based on the Samoa Demographic and Health -Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (Samoa DHS-MICS), conducted in 2019-20 by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) in collaboration with Ministry of Health and other government ministries, UNICEF, UNFPA, Pacific Community (SPC) and other partners. The survey provides statistically sound and internationally comparable data essential for developing evidence-based policies and programmes, and for monitoring progress toward national goals and global commitments.

The Samoa DHS-MICS 2019-20 results are critically important for the purposes of SDG monitoring, as the survey produces information on 33 global SDG indicators and 10 SDG indicators adopted by the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016-2020.



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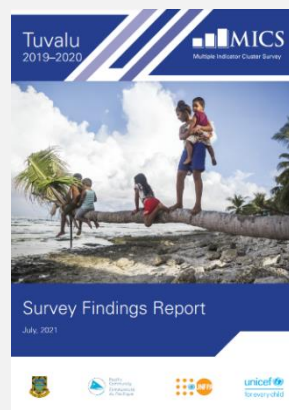
Availability:
[Online Report](#)



MICS Survey Findings Report Tuvalu

This report is based on the Tuvalu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), conducted in 2019–2020 by the Tuvalu Central Statistics Division in collaboration with Ministry of Health and other key Government ministries, UNICEF, UNFPA, the Pacific Community (SPC) and other partners. The survey provides statistically sound and internationally comparable data essential for developing evidence-based policies and programmes, and for monitoring progress toward national goals and global commitments. The objective of this report is to facilitate the timely dissemination and use of results from the Tuvalu MICS 2019–2020.

The report contains detailed information on the survey methodology, and all standard MICS tables. The report is accompanied by Statistical Snapshots of the main findings of the survey.



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Papua New-Guinea

Papua New Guinea High Frequency Phone Survey on COVID-19: Data Collection December 2020-January 2021

This joint report by the World Bank and UNICEF PNG presents the findings from two mobile phone surveys conducted in December 2020 and January 2021 in Papua New Guinea. The World Bank survey, conducted in December 2020, was the second in a series, with the first round being completed in June and July 2020. The round 2 survey interviewed a total of 2,820 respondents about their individual and household conditions, including 1,016 of the original round 1 respondents. These results were weighted using information from the 2016-2018 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) to reflect nationally representative estimates of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

The UNICEF survey, conducted in January 2021, targeted re-contacting all 2,534 households from the World Bank round 2 survey with children under the age of 15, and achieved a final sample of 2,449. These results were also weighted using information from the DHS to develop representative estimates for households with children under 15, 79.8 percent according to the DHS. The UNICEF survey included sections on household impacts as well as on the children living within the household.



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Papua New-Guinea

Papua New Guinea High Frequency Phone Survey on COVID-19 : Data Collection - May-July 2021

This joint report by the World Bank and UNICEF-PNG presents the findings from two mobile phone surveys conducted in May, June and July 2021 in Papua New Guinea. The first survey, conducted in May and June, was the third in a series, with the first round being completed in June and July 2020 and the second round being conducted in December 2020.

This survey interviewed a total of 2,533 respondents about the impact of COVID-19 on their economic activity and the results were weighted using information from the 2016–2018 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) to reflect nationally representative estimates of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. The second survey, conducted in June and July 2021, interviewed a total of 2,541 respondents (1,880 of whom were from the first survey) about the impact of COVID-19 on a range of areas that broadly can be considered human development. These results were also weighted using information from the DHS to develop representative estimates. The report uses data that predates the arrival of the Delta variant of COVID-19 in PNG and therefore should be considered a snapshot of changes in economic activity and human development from January to June 2021. The next round of data collection is currently planned to start in November 2021 and that survey will shed light on the impact of the Delta variant of COVID-19 in PNG.

The surveys in this report show that in general there were similar levels of economic activity and human development in mid-2021 as the start of 2021, however the surveys do not demonstrate a recovery to pre-pandemic levels. There was stabilization across a range of indicators, including levels of employment, access to education and healthcare as well as public trust and security. However, there was some variation across regions and wealth quintiles. The lack of deterioration of conditions since the start of 2021 is notable given that over this period there was a rapid escalation of the COVID-19 crisis in March followed by a fall in COVID-19 cases throughout May.



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Philippines

Expanding Social Protection Coverage in the Philippines in Times of COVID-19

Developed by the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, this brief provides a summary of the work of the UNICEF Philippines Country Office to support Social Protection programmes of the Philippine Government in the context of COVID-19.

The impacts of COVID-19 presented in this study were derived through scenario-based impact modelling. Considering three different scenarios for income contraction (10 per cent, 20 per cent, and 30 per cent), the study estimated the impacts of COVID-19 on overall monetary and child poverty in the Philippines.



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Philippines

Country Brief: Rapid Review of Global Social Protection Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic (08/2021)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had adverse effects on every area of our lives and the vulnerable have been most affected. Evidence gathered by UNICEF and its partners around the world shows that children have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and its adverse effects are not just those that have been observed immediately but it is likely to have far-reaching consequences on their lives. In response, countries have been able to use various social protection response and other measures to ease the immediate and long-term effects of COVID-19 on children. To draw important lessons from these interventions and enrich the evidence base for on-going decision making, the Evaluation Office launched a global and country level reviews of social protection responses that been instituted.

This report is a result of a review of the country's COVID-19 response that brings together evidence from document reviews, data analysis, key informant interviews and stakeholder validation webinars that has been outlined under direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic, social protection responses, analysis of gaps and key findings and conclusions. It is anticipated that the review will support decisionmaking at country level in future programming for social protection interventions by providing key insights on actionable conclusions for improving social protection responses based on the analysis of the depth COVID-19 impact and outlining the effects of various response actions that were undertaken.



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Philippines

Evaluation of UNICEF's Work for Children in Urban Settings: What's at stake?

This online webinar included a technical presentation on the Urban Evaluation by Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee (Evaluation Team Leader) and Denis Jobin (Evaluation Manager). Panelists Anjanette Saguisag (UNICEF Philippines), Robert Ndugwa (UN-Habitat), Sarah Sabry (Save the Children/Global Alliance - Cities 4 Children), discussed the questions:

1. What does this evaluation mean for the future of urban programming for children in your context?,
2. Do you think UNICEF should consider other approaches for working in urban settings other than the three identified in the evaluation?,
3. How relevant do you think are the drivers of change in shaping future urban programming?,
4. What more UNICEF can do to achieve results for children in urban settings?



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Philippines

Analytical Report and Recommendations for an Inclusive and Risk-Informed Poverty and Disaster Registry in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Mainstreaming risk-informed shock responsive social protection for addressing the multi-dimensional nature of vulnerabilities of individuals, households and communities requires a data and information management system, particularly a poverty and disaster registry.

An inclusive and risk-informed poverty and disaster registry can provide the Bangsamoro Government ways to integrate data and better handle information to ensure that the right people in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) are receiving the right social protection at the right time.



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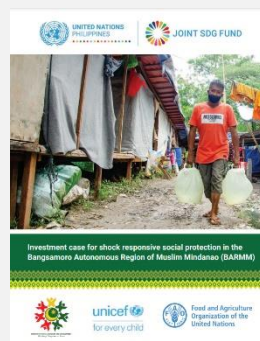


Philippines

Investment case for shock responsive social protection in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is an autonomous region in the South of the Philippines established in 2019 following the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL). One of the main contributing factors to BARMM's expressive poverty rates is the region's particularly high vulnerability to shocks. To address persistent poverty and vulnerability, several social protection programs are being implemented. While BARMM has mostly relied on the national government to fund most of its social protection programs during the first years since its establishment, the regional government has recently started to finance and roll out several cash transfer programs through its Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD).

To further strengthen the regional social protection system and render it responsive to the frequent emergencies in the region – particularly conflict and natural disasters – the newly formed BARMM government has received support from UNICEF and FAO under the UN Joint SDG Fund on Social Protection. As part of this support, UNICEF and FAO commissioned the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) to formulate an investment case for shock responsive social protection (SRSP) in BARMM. This investment case assessed the potential future impacts of shock responsive social protection and shed light on the associated costs and ways to create the necessary fiscal space.



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Philippines

The Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Households in the National Capital Region of the Philippines

The results of the joint UNICEF-UNDP assessment on over 3,600 households with children residing in the National Capital Region show early evidence of the impact of COVID-19 in the Philippines on a range of outcomes at the household level, including employment, income, food consumption, food security, social protection, mental health, and gender equality.

The assessment was undertaken with support and guidance of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Department of Education.



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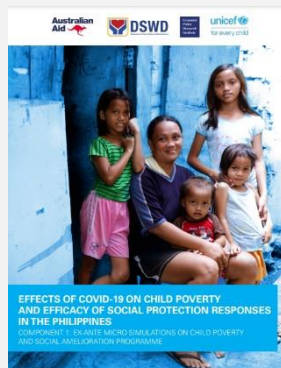


Philippines

Effects of COVID-19 on child poverty and efficacy of social protection responses in the Philippines (Component 1+2)

The outbreak of COVID-19 has rapidly morphed into an unprecedented health, economic, and geopolitical crisis. While the pandemic threatens to incur exceptional human costs around the world, the cost for low- and middle-income countries is expected to be even greater. As of mid-January 2021, COVID-19 has spread throughout the Philippines, with over 600,000 confirmed cases and 12,837 deaths. In addition to the direct health effects from the transmission of COVID-19, there is growing evidence that the pandemic, and the actions taken to control the virus, have caused severe economic and social effects. According to the Asian Development Bank's estimates, GDP growth in the country is projected at -10 per cent year-on-year. The World Bank projects this to be the worst-ever recession in the Southeast Asia region, taking a disproportionate toll on informal sector workers and pushing millions into poverty.

This study assessed the effects of COVID-19 on monetary poverty and multidimensional vulnerabilities in the Philippines, with a special focus on children. The study also assessed the impact of the Social Amelioration Programme (SAP) of the Philippine Government in terms of its ability to reduce poverty and alleviate deprivations in the light of COVID-19. The impacts of COVID-19 presented in this study were derived through scenario-based impact modelling. Considering three different scenarios for income contraction (10 per cent, 20 per cent, and 30 per cent), the study estimated the impacts of COVID-19 on overall monetary and child poverty in the Philippines.



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Thailand

Country Brief: Rapid Review of Global Social Protection Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic (08/2021)

This report is a result of a review of the country's COVID-19 response that brings together evidence from document reviews, data analysis, key informant interviews and stakeholder validation webinars that have been outlined under direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic, social protection responses, analysis of gaps and key findings and conclusions. It is anticipated that the review will support decision making at country level in future programming for social protection interventions by providing key insights on actionable conclusions for improving social protection responses based on the analysis of the depth of the COVID-19 impact and outlining the effects of various response actions that were undertaken.

This country brief presents the initial findings of the rapid review's research about Thailand's social protection response to the crisis. The review is based on desk research, interviews with key informants, and interaction with 19 other country case studies. In total, the research team interviewed 233 key informants and organised 22 webinars. The rapid review's methodology overview provides a full description of the methodological approach. The first section of the country brief covers the health, economic and social impact of COVID-19 on Thailand. The next section (section 2) describes the socio-economic impacts that the pandemic caused. Section 3 focuses on the social protection responses undertaken by the state and other development partners to mitigate the adverse impacts of the pandemic. The fourth section features the analysis of gaps and findings in the social protection response, followed by a final section (section 5) on the research conclusions.



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Thailand

Thailand Social Protection Diagnostic Review: Summary report on child – sensitive social protection in Thailand

This report provides a concise summary description of child-sensitive social protection in Thailand. The data is extracted from four in-depth reports of the Thailand Social Protection Diagnostic Review (SPDR):

1. Social protection mapping and vulnerability analysis (Merttens, Leurcharusmee, Chaichakan, Silva-Leander, & Barberis, 2021)
2. Background study on social protection for migrant workers and their families in Thailand (Seyfert, Wannasisri, Brouwer & Merttens, 2021)
3. Gender impact assessment (Holmes, Pichaikul & Chaichakan, 2021)
4. Background Paper – expanding access to social security for all Thai workers (Merttens, da Cunha, Du, Thaiprasert & Farhat, 2021a).

The analysis is based on desk review including the policy and legislative framework, administrative data, and the 2019 Household Socio-Economic Survey – SES (National Statistical Office of Thailand, 2020a), as well as key informant interviews (KII) and covers the five areas, in line with existing conceptual frameworks used for similar purposes: needs, coverage, effectiveness, sustainability, and coherence.



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Thailand

Thailand Social Protection Diagnostic Review

As part of the United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP) between the RTG and United Nations agencies titled 'Social Protection for All in Thailand – Accelerating Progress Towards an Integrated and Modernised Social Protection System for All in Thailand', a comprehensive independent review has been carried out of the Thailand social protection system. This is known as the Social Protection Diagnostic Review (SPDR). The SPDR includes studies on areas such as the current mapping of social protection and the poverty/vulnerability within the population, the potential for expanding social security to cover all workers, the gender impact of social protection, access to social protection for migrant workers, the pension system; and the fiscal dimension and budgeting for social protection, including the development of a social budgeting model for Thailand.

The SPDR aims to facilitate the generation of a sectoral reform agenda that promotes a more inclusive, integrated and coherent social protection system in Thailand. The final chapter of the report provides conclusions and puts forth a series of options for sectoral reform, including costed policy options for expanding coverage and adequacy.



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Thailand

Paper: Equity-based budget in education (In Thai only)

This study examined the equity gap of current budget structure on education for Thailand including the return on investment through the greater equitable on budget for education. This study also explored and aimed to adapt inputs from international best practices on per-student funding (PSF) paper (UNICEF 2021). In addition, this study would suggest the right approach and policy recommendations to development of the country first equity-based budgeting for education.



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Rapid Assessment of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Antenatal Care Clinic and Well Child Clinic Services in Thailand

This report describes the findings of a rapid assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on antenatal care Clinic (ANC) and well child clinic (WCC) services provided under Thailand's Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), conducted between December 2020 and January 2021.



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(English Version starting
at p.63)



Thailand

Education budget plan for emergencies response: The case of COVID shocks

This study examines the case of the COVID pandemic as an illustration of shocks and responses in the education system in the context of emergencies and reviews some international experiences of education under emergencies. It discusses the planning of education budgets in the context of the necessary prioritization of education spending by governments given the fewer available revenues and greater spending needs during emergencies. Even though fiscal constraints are expected to be tight following crisis, protecting the education budget and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of existing budget could prove essential to prevent a lost generation of students and a drop in human capital. Decrease in public education funding can have long-term effects on student learning outcomes, compounding the harmful impacts of the crisis on households' ability to support children's education.

Given that still few information based on evidence is currently available on potential best practice for emergency education budget plan, we discuss some country experiences, in particular the cases of Ethiopia, the USA and South Korea. Recommendations are formulated, including the creation of a study group to examine the possibility of establishing an education in emergency response strategy framework.



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Thailand

Equity-based budgeting in education: school funding formula

This study reviews the potential role and capacity of per-student funding (PSF) and other variants of needs-based funding formulae at promoting equity in education. Being multidimensional and involving multiple components of the education system, we first discuss how educational equity is defined in the context especially of education financing and how it could be measured at various stages of the education process.

We examine the main characteristics of formula funding and identify key components to promote equity through allocation of additional resources to disadvantaged pupils and schools serving these students. We examine categories of student-needs and school characteristics identified in international practices of school funding formulae to ensure the pursuit of equal opportunity of education quality. We also discuss various input-oriented and output-oriented methods to measure costs within school funding formulae. Equity in teachers' allocation is also examined and the importance of including personnel expenditures in funding formulae. The study also presents applications of formula funding models in the case of five countries and formulates some recommendations.



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Availability:
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Thailand

Stocktaking: the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on Children in Thailand

The stocktaking report “The Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19: Children of Thailand” identifies key areas of the secondary impact of COVID-19 pandemic in Thailand at (i) macro-level and (ii) micro-level both for parents and children.

The report draws on studies and analytical briefs that were published during 2020-2021 by national agencies and international organizations. Impact on a wide range of areas is considered, namely: income and employment, poverty, education, nutrition, child protection, and many more.

It is complemented by a chapter on Social protection, providing an overview of all social assistance programs that were introduced to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic over the last 2 years with a detailed timeline on duration, target groups, and benefits value. In addition, the stocktaking report uses 2 human interest stories to highlight some specific challenges that children and families were facing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report is intended to provide a concise, user-friendly compendium and a snapshot of the impact of COVID-19 in Thailand on the areas critical for children’s development and well-being. It may be useful for government officials at national and local levels, international organizations working on families, children, and youth as well as representatives from academia and public at large.



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Thailand

Country-Led Formative Evaluation of the 1000-Day Programme in Thailand

The report describes the result of a country-led formative evaluation of the First 1,000 Days programme, a five-year programme implemented between 2018-2023 by the Department of Health (DOH) of the Royal Thai Government's Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), with the goal to promote maternal health and child growth such that all children in Thailand aged 0-2 years reach their full potential height and optimal weight and achieve age-appropriate development.

The evaluation was conducted by Mahidol University with leadership from the DOH and technical support provided by UNICEF Thailand Country Office. The key evaluation question was "To what extent has the programme contributed to the optimal growth and development of children in Thailand?". In addition, the evaluation framework was based on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) evaluation criteria. In addition to relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, a further criterion of "inclusiveness" was added, which included the cross-cutting issues of equity, gender and human rights. The OECD "impact" criterion was not assessed. The evaluation report includes key findings on all aspects of the programme, and makes recommendations related to maternity and perinatal care for women and newborns, and care for children up to 2 years of age, as well as the programme design and implementation.



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Thailand

Sustainable financing of social protection in Thailand

Given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic downturn, a crucial element of policy advocacy for more integrated and responsive social protection concerns the question of “available” resources and financing of social protection. Often the discussion of the availability of resources for social protection centers around prioritization, reflected in the share of the government budget allocated to the social protection sector. The re-allocation of resources has traditionally been one of the sources to expand social protection expenditure. However, the decision on the optimal level of social protection expenditure cannot be disassociated from the wider macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks. It is, therefore, critical for all stakeholders to have a common understanding of the possible scenarios in terms of the economic growth and resources available, as well as the implications of different investment options in the medium- and long-term on the country’s productivity, growth and poverty reduction.

Therefore, in 2021 UNICEF commissioned a technical note on financing social protection in Thailand, encompassing an analysis of the economic environment of the country, elaborating on different growth and fiscal scenarios and their implications for the government revenues exploring options to increase the fiscal space. In 2022, the preliminary findings of the analysis were presented in a high-level technical roundtable with a number of senior level government officials, prominent economists and experts from academia and thinktanks. The Technical Note has been revised based on the inputs received during and after the technical roundtable and is being finalized by UNICEF to be published shortly. UNICEF will expand this work to include a more in-depth analysis encompassing all key critical services for children, to inform its office-wide advocacy priorities for 2022-2026.



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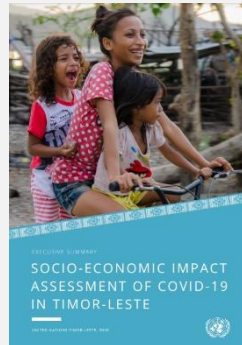
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Timor-Leste

Socio-economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, 2020

To understand the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable groups, poor households, and Micro-, Small and Medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), the United Nations system in Timor-Leste conducted a rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA), with data collected in June-July 2020 in five municipalities.

This assessment observed changes in livelihoods, employment, food security, healthcare, education, and other basic services, including social protection and gender equality. In addition, it monitored variations in supply, demand, income, and employment for MSMEs as a result of the Government of Timor-Leste measures. Information about the major challenges faced by various government agencies, non-government organizations and their response were also collected. The assessment can be used for informing socio-economic response and recovery programmes in Timor-Leste.



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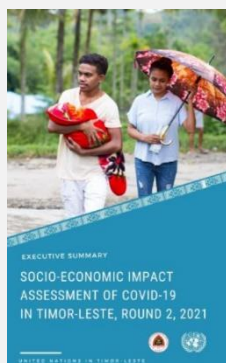


Timor-Leste

Socio-economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, Round 2, 2021

This study presents the results of a nationwide household survey and a national micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) survey, undertaken between July and September 2021 in order to identify the impacts of COVID-19 on individuals, households, and communities, as well as MSMEs in Timor-Leste, and to develop recommendations to inform further recovery interventions.

The study shows how the COVID-19 situation has exacerbated underlying issues within the country, including large gaps in development between rural and urban settings, the effects of climate hazards, and limited access to education, health services, social protection programmes and markets. To cope with the confluence of the pandemic, Easter Flood and major difficulties, households have employed coping strategies that hinder further improvement in their lives.



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Timor-Leste

Options Paper: Understanding and Measuring Poverty in Timor-Leste

The Ministry of Finance's General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) engaged in a process of reviewing options for the construction of a multidimensional poverty (MDP) measure in Timor-Leste, in line with SDG target 1.2 that calls for "reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions."

This paper is a synthesis of this process. It first reviews and presents the central elements needed to construct a national measure of multidimensional poverty. Different methodologies to construct and aggregate indicators and dimensions are presented, and their features discussed. The second part discusses the choices made by GDS regarding data, indicators, dimensions and other aspects. The measure agreed upon is an individual-based one. Therefore, each age group has specific indicators and dimensions. However, the resulting index is aggregated in one final score for the whole population. The resulting multidimensional poverty headcount, using 2014 data, is 55%. It stands at 54.3% for children 0-17 (55.4% for boys and 53.2% for girls) and 55.6% for adults aged 18 and above (54.2% for men, and 56.5% for women).



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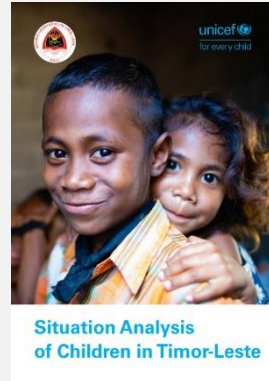


Timor-Leste

The Situation Analysis of Children in Timor-Leste

The Situation Analysis of Children in Timor-Leste provides an update as of 2020 on the previous Situation Analysis from 2014. The analysis uses a sectoral approach to key areas including health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection, etc, but also uses a life-cycle approach to examine the critical periods of early childhood and adolescence. The report has applied the lenses of gender equality, of inequality and exclusion, children's and human rights and environmental and climate change imperatives. To ensure that the views of children were taken into account, UNICEF organized a large-scale nationwide consultation with adolescents in 2019, in partnership with the Alumni Association of the Timor-Leste Youth Parliament. These consultations and the views of the participants are presented in a special section of the report.

The analysis shows that in its short history as an independent country, Timor-Leste has made significant progress for children and adolescents. However, more needs to be done to prevent vulnerable children from being left behind.



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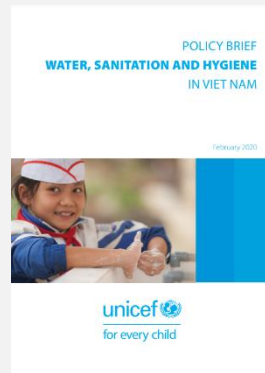


Viet Nam

Policy Brief - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Viet Nam

With a population of 97.4 million, Viet Nam's access to improved water supplies increased from 65 per cent in the year 2000 to 95 per cent in 2017, while access to basic sanitation jumped from 52 to 84 per cent during the same period. Despite the enormous progress made, 10.7 million people (10.15 million in rural areas and 550,000 in urban areas) still practice open defecation. Additionally, only 13 per cent of the population wash their hands with soap at key moments. The lack of access to water and sanitation coupled with poor hygiene practices contribute to high rates of diarrhoea, pneumonia and parasitic infections. As a result, one fourth of children under the age of five in Viet Nam suffer from stunted growth. Water, sanitation and hygiene are core elements of human capital development that drive Viet Nam's current and future productivity and growth. Human capital development is comprised of the knowledge, skills and health acquired over the course of one's lifetime.

It therefore requires investment in children - especially in their early years and those who are most vulnerable - so that they can achieve full potential when they become adults and enter the job market. Water, sanitation and hygiene are indicators that are closely linked to education, skills development and stunting. Adequate investment in WASH would optimize Viet Nam's competitiveness in the regional and global market and accelerate its achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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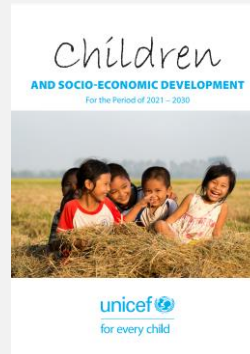


Viet Nam

Children and socio-economic development

As the first country in Asia and the second globally to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990, Viet Nam has made rapid progress in human development and economic growth over the past 30 years. Initiated in 1986, economic and political reforms under Đổi Mới transformed Viet Nam from one of the world's poorest nations to a lower middle-income country - making it one of the most dynamic emerging countries in the Asian region. Poverty rates fell from 58 per cent in 1993 to 9.8 per cent in 2017. Infant and under-five mortality rates have decreased significantly, immunization coverage is high, and more children than ever are enrolled in school. Progress is also evident in other areas, such as expanding access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Despite these many positive strides, children in Viet Nam face unprecedented challenges. Global evidence demonstrates that investment in children is the most effective investment that governments can make to secure future economic growth. Prioritization of investment in children in national development strategies and plans is vital for Viet Nam, especially in light of the demographic transition that will kick-in between 2025-2030. Consequently, Viet Nam must focus on the development of a healthy and well-educated workforce. Based on a thorough review of indicators relevant for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNICEF has identified child-focused priority areas for comprehensive investment in Viet Nam during 2021-2030.



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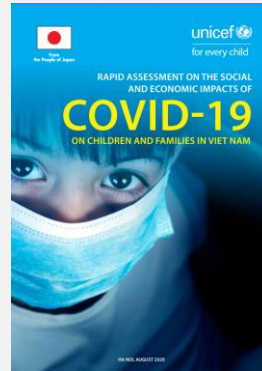


Viet Nam

Rapid Assessment of the Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Children and Families in Viet Nam

This rapid assessment is part of UNICEF Viet Nam's comprehensive support to the Government of Viet Nam to inform its policy-making in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rapid assessment was commissioned by UNICEF in partnership with Ha Noi University of Public Health at household and individual levels to assess the pandemic's social and economic impacts on children and their families in Viet Nam to support the government in making timely and effective responses towards short and long-term recoveries. Key literature and secondary data on COVID-19 impacts on children and their families in Viet Nam were reviewed, extracted and categorized. The cross-sectional quantitative study was conducted in Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City and Vinh Phuc province. A total of 148 mothers, fathers and caregivers of children aged 2-18 years were interviewed via telephone. Some 36 mothers, fathers and caretakers of children, relevant stakeholders, representatives of ethnic minorities and adolescents aged 16-18 years were interviewed using semi-structured guidelines.

The study analysed the impacts of COVID-19 on children and their families in relation to jobs, income, access to essential services including (maternal and child health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and social assistance) and proposed policy recommendations.



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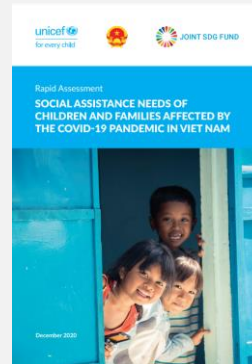


Viet Nam

Rapid Assessment on Social Assistance Needs of Children and Families in Viet Nam

The Department of Social Assistance, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), with support from UNICEF, conducted this rapid assessment to understand the social assistance needs of children and their families as well as children in social protection centres amid the pandemic.

This rapid assessment draws on evidence gathered between 15 April to 18 May 2020 through reports from all 63 provinces in the country and in-depth interviews in eight provinces and cities (Ha Noi, Da Nang, Dien Bien, Hung Yen, Ninh Thuan, Gia Lai, Binh Duong and Dong Thap). This assessment seeks to inform the revision of Resolution No. 42 and other regular and ad-hoc social assistance policies to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic as well as other future crises on families with children.



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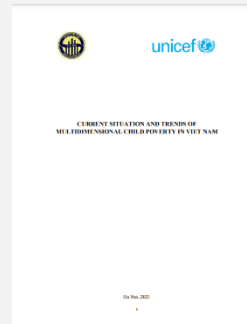


Viet Nam

Current Situation and trends of Multi-Dimensional Child Poverty in Viet Nam

Despite its success in economic growth and poverty reduction, Viet Nam still faces many challenges such as inequality in living standards among population groups, urbanization, climate change and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Children are a vulnerable group, which are more affected by poverty than adults. Lack of nutrition, education, access to hygienic latrines and clean water will negatively affect children's health and education for life.

The main research objective of this report is to update the current situation and trends in multidimensional child poverty in the period 2014-2018. Our analysis is disaggregated by age and gender of children, ethnicity, geography, and especially by disability status of children.



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Viet Nam

Climate Landscape Analysis for Children in Viet Nam (CLAC)

The Climate Landscape Analysis for Children in Viet Nam was jointly facilitated by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and UNICEF Viet Nam. The study conducts a comprehensive analysis of the landscape of children and climate change in Viet Nam and provides a baseline of climate-related issues affecting children.

The study has informed the development of the 2021-2025 socio-economic development plan and other climate change-related policies to bring forward a more child-centred approach. Furthermore, it helps to identify areas for further research to promote child-centred approaches to climate change policy and action in Viet Nam. The intended audience for the CLAC includes: i) MPI and key Government of Viet Nam's stakeholders involved in socio-economic and climate change policy and leading in water, sanitation, education and health, ii) UNICEF and other development agencies with a climate change and environment mandate, and iii) the private sector and Civil Society Organizations.



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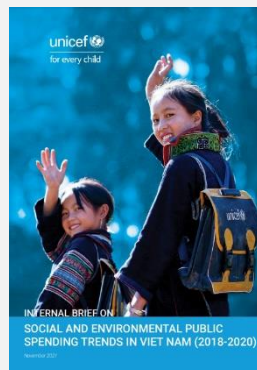


Viet Nam

Brief of social and environmental public spending trends in Viet Nam (2018-2020)

This brief was produced by the Social Policy and Governance Programme at UNICEF Viet Nam. It has benefited from inputs and comments from all relevant programmes of UNICEF Viet Nam. The analysis is based on data and information provided by the National Institute for Finance and State Treasury, Ministry of Finance.

The main objective of this brief is to analyse public spending trends on social and environmental sectors to foster discourse and to inform policy and financial decision-making processes.



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Viet Nam

Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on Children and Women (SDGCW) 2020-2021

The Survey measuring Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goal indicators on Children and Women (SDGCW) 2020-2021 was conducted by the General Statistics Office (GSO) in collaboration with concerned government ministries and agencies. It is part of the Global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Programme of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 6th Round, or MICS6, with technical and financial oversight and support provided by UNICEF. For the first time ever, the Viet Nam SDGCW Survey integrated two modules from the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).

The Viet Nam SDGCW survey 2020-2021 generated data for 169 indicators, of which 35 are national Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, making it a key source of data for monitoring Viet Nam's progress towards achieving the SDGs and its national targets. Survey's findings have enabled Viet Nam to better track and fulfill its commitment to "leave no one behind", as all indicators can be disaggregated, wherever possible, by wealth quintiles, sex, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics.



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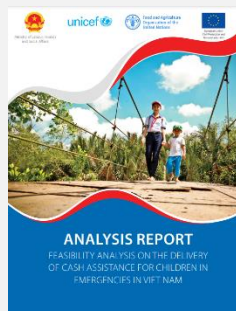


Viet Nam

The feasibility analysis report on delivery of cash assistance for children in emergencies in Viet Nam

The feasibility analysis on the delivery of cash assistance for children in emergencies in Viet Nam was commissioned by UNICEF Viet Nam and FAO Viet Nam in close collaboration with the Social Protection Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). The analysis was funded by the European Union and conducted as part of the ECHO-supported joint UN project in ASEAN “Developing Options for Risk-Informed and Shock-Responsive Social Protection”, phase II, which aims to promote the linkages between shock-responsive social protection and early actions.

The report explores options for cash transfer delivery mechanisms to respond to intensifying and recurrent natural disasters and to identify the operational needs to ensure timely and effective delivery of cash assistance to children. Study's findings will contribute to inform and strengthen a shock-responsive social protection system in the country.



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Viet Nam

The Fiscal Space Analysis on Expanding Social Assistance for Children in Viet Nam

Viet Nam has strengthened its social protection systems over recent years. Underpinned by national reform plans and international targets, it aspires to continue to improve social assistance for children over the medium term (up to 2025). To enable the government of Viet Nam to implement its social assistance policies, fiscal space needs to be identified.

This work evaluates the various potential financing sources within a Fiscal Space Analysis (FSA) for social assistance for children. It is carried out in collaboration with the government of Viet Nam, with the Ministry of Labour Invalides and Social Affairs (MOLISA) leading. The work responds to both the longer-term policy reform agenda through the FSA as well as the more immediate socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to give a holistic view of the possibilities for protecting and strengthening social protection financing and service delivery for children in Viet Nam. The findings will contribute to expand the coverage of children social assistant beneficiaries at central and local level, beyond the Governments' Decree 20/2021/ND-CP.



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Viet Nam

Costing Exercise for Viet Nam National Plan of Action on Nutrition (2022-2025)

Viet Nam has achieved great results in reducing stunting from 29.3 per cent in 2010 to 19.6 per cent in 2019. This achievement is attributed by the strong political commitment and leadership of the Government, and effective implementation of the strategies and action plans on nutrition by relevant line ministries at national and provincial levels to address multiple causes of malnutrition. However, there are still considerable disparities in child stunting prevalence by regions, provinces and among ethnic minority groups. Nutrition is key to improving a child's optimal cognitive and physical development and the stature of Vietnamese people. Therefore, investment in healthier and well-nourished generation is attributable to productivity and economic growth.

Viet Nam's 2021-2025 National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN) is a great venue to advocate for strategically planning and allocating resources (both financial and human resources) for nutrition interventions on annual and five-year bases. The inadequate costing of nutrition-sensitive interventions makes it difficult to track the contributions of other sectors to nutrition programmes. Therefore, there is an urgent and critical need for undertaking a costing exercise of the NPAN (2021-2025) which will include nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, and governance actions. The costing focuses specifically on estimating the costs of nutrition-sensitive interventions. This costing exercise is part of the approved joint programme funded under the Joint SDG Fund to supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated finance strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.



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Viet Nam

Assessment for WASH financing in Viet Nam

With a population of 96.2 million, Viet Nam's access to improved water supplies increased from 65 per cent in the year 2000 to 97 per cent in 2019, while access to basic sanitation jumped from 52 to 89 per cent during the same period. Despite the progress made, 10.7 million people still practice open defecation. Additionally, only 13 per cent of the population wash their hands with soap at key moments. The lack of access to water and sanitation coupled with poor hygiene practices contribute to high rates of diarrhoea, pneumonia and parasitic infections. As a result, one fifth of children under the age of five in Viet Nam suffer from stunted growth. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are core elements of human capital development that drive Viet Nam's current and future productivity and growth and accelerate its achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WASH services are capital intensive and require long-term investments and financing plans. Also, additional investments are needed for climate resilient WASH infrastructure. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy for rural WASH, WASH in schools and WASH in health facilities (2021-2030) has created opportunity for development of financing strategies and plans.

This assessment of WASH financing in Viet Nam aims to fill critical knowledge gaps and strengthen holistic evidence base for WASH funding/financing in Viet Nam. This effort also attempts to nurture and develop alternate market based professional WASH services including mobilization of private sector and adoption of public private partnership. Leveraging sustainable financial resources is crucial to fill in the financing gap for the sector.



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Viet Nam

Costing exercise for universalizing lower secondary education in Viet Nam

Viet Nam's commitment to education is visible in sizeable public and private investments and rising attainment levels. Since 2000, the government has committed approximately 20 percent of public expenditure on education – one of the highest in ASEAN. The Government of Viet Nam set a goal of creating radical and drastic changes in education and training so that these changes reach higher levels of education services' quality, effectiveness and equity by 2030. However, the education sectors are still facing enormous challenges, including poor institutional governance, teachers of uneven quality, inefficient distribution of teachers among provinces and regions, shortage of primary and secondary education services in urban areas where concentrate immigrant workers working in industrial parks, digital divide especially in remote, mountainous areas, and lack of effective, inclusive education for all children. All of these factors have led to disparities in the access to quality education services by different population segments.

This exercise aims to provide the costs for a quality and equitable universal lower secondary education policy and how these costs should be shared between public and private funding sources. Findings from this study are expected to shed better light on a comprehensive, feasible and equitable strategy for universal lower secondary education in coming years.



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Child Poverty

Addressing child poverty is a core component of UNICEF's social policy function. For the first time in 60 years countries in Southeast Asia are experiencing a severe recession and economic crisis. The result is an expected dramatic, fast, and prolonged increase in child poverty in the region, both in terms of increased number as well as deterioration of their wellbeing and quality of life. UNICEF Social Policy teams in the region continues to focus on child poverty measurement, analysis and research and the implementation of related policies and strategies.

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Public Finance for Children

Government public funds are by far the largest and the most strategic tool for policy implementation. The rationale for the engagement of UNICEF in public and financial management (PFM) is grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Article 4 of the CRC directs states to ‘invest in child rights to the maximum extent of available resources’. UNICEF is actively engaging national governments from East Asia and Pacific and other key partners in Public Finance for Children (PF4C) activities, aiming to safeguard the adequacy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of public spending for children.

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Public Finance for Children

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Social Protection

Social protection covers the range of policies and programmes needed to reduce the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusion. Social welfare services and cash transfer programmes – including child grants, school meals, skills development and more – help connect families with health care, nutritious food and quality education to give all children, no matter what circumstances they are born into, a fair chance in life. UNICEF helps countries strengthen and expand rights-based social protection systems that support the well-being of all children, especially those most at risk of discrimination and exclusion. UNICEF also supports stronger, universal, integrated, and accessible social protection to protect children and their caregivers from the negative effects of all sorts of crises and emergencies, including during Covid-19.

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