Data analysis: Worsening prospects for children

The last 20 years have seen major gains in child wellbeing around the world. Across countless measures from child survival to schooling, important progress has been recorded. However, not all children have shared in this progress.

Methodology:

We identify three country-level indicators whose decline would signal that children's prospects today are worse than those from a generation ago in some key respect. The three indicators capture those children who face a greater chance of experiencing extreme poverty; a greater chance of missing out on a basic education; and a greater chance of suffering a violent death. For all countries that exhibit such a decline in any one indicator, we add up the child population to generate a number of children worldwide facing bleaker prospects.

Worse prospects in escaping poverty
Indicator: Extreme poverty rate (member of household living below the international poverty line of PPP$1.90/person per day)
Methodology: Identification of countries where the poverty rate rose by more than one percentage point between 2002 and 2013.
Countries (14): Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Madagascar, Micronesia (Federated States of), South Sudan, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
Source: Ferreira 2017[1] based on calculations from PovcalNet

Worse prospects in getting a basic education
Indicator: Primary Net Enrolment Rate (NER)
Methodology: Identification of countries where the NER is either stagnating or trending downwards between 1999 and 2016, and where the 2016 NER represents more than a 5 percent point decrease from the highest value recorded between 1999 and 2016. Countries with NER higher than 90% are excluded. NER is employed here as a proxy for educational attainment in the absence of a composite indicator representing the education sector as a whole. Stagnating or downward trending indicators may in some cases be a reflection of poor data quality as opposed to sectoral performance.
Countries (21): Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guatemala, Guyana, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Palau, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, United Republic of Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

Worse prospects in avoiding violent death
Indicator: Cause-specific mortality rates (collective violence and legal intervention, self-harm, interpersonal violence) for children aged 0-19 years

---

[1] Ferreira, Francisco. "Against the tide: A look at the countries where poverty has been on the rise, despite falling global numbers." *Let's Talk Development*, 18 Oct. 2017, blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/against-tide-look-countries-where-poverty-has-been-rise-despite-falling-global-numbers.

Methodology: Identification of countries recording an increase in mortality rates in any of the three variables between 2000 and 2015. (In all 7 countries, increases in levels of violent deaths were due to collective violence.) Confidence intervals were used to exclude countries for which the values in 2000 and 2015 overlapped.
Countries (7): Central African Republic, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, and Yemen.
Source: UNICEF Global Databases, based on WHO Global Health Estimates 2015.

Population estimates
Indicator: Population of children aged 0-17.
Source: World Population Prospects