

## Methodological note

The Groups-based Inequalities Database (GRID) was developed by Save the Children and is designed to monitor group-based inequalities in key dimensions of children's rights and well-being, including health, nutrition, education and protection across low- and middle-income countries. It is based on direct processing of raw data from 280 Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). It contains data on a total of 89 countries (70 of which contain data from as recently as 1995), with disaggregated data on disparities across the main socio-economic groups.

### Available groups and definitions:

- Gender: sex of the child as reported in the survey.
- Urban/rural: the definition is the same as the one used in DHS or MICS and normally follows the definition used in the census.
- Economic groups: DHS and MICS surveys estimate the wealth of households by asking them questions on ownership of various assets and construct an index based on it. Quintiles are then constructed based on the distribution of household population. In GRID, quintiles computed by MICS or DHS were used. Since quintiles are computed for the total population, the child population in each quintile may not be exactly 20% and reported child population may vary between quintiles.<sup>1</sup>
- Administrative regions: region definition is the same as that provided in DHS and MICS. In some cases, regions were changed to match over time and for this reason they may not be identical to the current administrative regional borders.
- Ethnicity: the definition of ethnicity is the same as that provided in DHS and MICS. In some cases, ethnic groups were modified to match over time.

In addition, GRID disaggregates data to measure outcomes and inequalities for intersecting groups:

- Gender by urban/rural, economic groups, subnational regions and ethnicity
- Urban/rural by gender, economic groups, subnational regions and ethnicity

### Indicators included in GRID

The online version of GRID database contains the following indicators:

- Birth registration: percentage of children under the age of 5 whose birth has been registered
- Child marriage: percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were first married or in union before age 18.
- Child mortality: number of child deaths under the age of five per 1,000 live births.

---

<sup>1</sup> Additional information on the wealth index can be found here:

<http://mics.unicef.org/files?job=W1siZiIsIjIwMTUvMDMvMzEvMTAvMzYvMDAvNzQ0L0RIU19XZWFsdGhfSW5kZXhfX0RIU19Db21wYXJhdGl2ZV9SZXBvcnRzXy5wZGUiXV0&sha=4a283701ee092fbc>

- Child development index: a composite indicator produced by Save the Children. It comprises four indicators: birth registration, child mortality, stunting and primary school completion.
- Full immunisation: percentage of children aged 12-23 months having received the full course of polio, BCG, measles and DPT3 vaccines.
- Primary completion: percentage of children age 15-24 years who have completed primary education.
- Secondary completion: percentage of individuals age 20-29 who have completed secondary education.
- Stunting: percentage of children under the age of five below two standard deviations from the median height for age.
- Wasting: percentage of children under the age five below two standard deviations from the median weight for height for the reference population.

Computation of indicators is done by Save the Children UK. The figures provided can vary slightly compared to other available figures computed from different sources.

### **Child population**

For each group, the share of the group in the total population has been computed. The share of the group has been applied to the total child population (age 0 to 19 years) provided by the United Nations Population Division for the relevant year to obtain the total number of children for the group.

### **Additional information**

For each of these indicators and groups, sample sizes, standard errors and confidence intervals are also calculated. Though not included in the online version, these are available upon request.

### **Sample sizes**

Groups with a sample size less than 100 were deleted from GRID. Because of this, in some countries, some groups or intersections do not appear in the visualisation tool. Thus, in some cases, groups will not appear because the sample size was too small to provide a reliable measure of the group average. For example, this is the case in the intersection of urban/rural and economic groups, where the intersections of poor/urban and rich/rural are often missing as these categories tend to have very small sample sizes.

### **Coverage**

Data is taken from the latest available DHS, or in some cases MICS. Some indicators might be missing if the question was not included in the questionnaire. To be included in the visualisation tool, data must be from as recent as 1995.

### **Inequality metrics**

GRID uses two different metrics to measure inequalities in child outcomes between groups of children: the absolute gap and relative ratio. The former measures absolute difference in the given indicator between disadvantaged and reference groups, while the latter measures how much more likely the disadvantaged group is to experience the given condition compared to the

reference group. As reference groups we use boys for gender inequality, urban areas for location inequality, richest group for economic group inequality, the region with the best outcome for regional inequality and ethnicity with the best outcome for the ethnic inequality.