Data sources guidance for outcome indicators on article 7:

Children with disabilities

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7.21: Under-5 mortality rate (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.2.1), disaggregated by sex and disability

Level 3: Indicator for which acquiring data is more complex or requires the development of data collection mechanisms that are not currently in place

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

According to the metadata:

> Nationally representative estimates of child mortality can be derived from a number of sources, including civil registration and sample surveys. Demographic surveillance sites and hospital data are excluded, as they are rarely representative. The preferred source of data is a civil registration system that records births and deaths on a continuous basis. If registration is complete and the system functions efficiently, the resulting estimates will be accurate and timely. However, many countries do not have well-functioning vital registration systems. In such cases, household surveys, such as Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys and periodic population censuses, have become the primary sources of data on under-5 mortality. These surveys ask women about the survival of their children, and it is these reports that provide the basis of child mortality estimates for the majority of low- and middle-income countries. These data, however, are often subject to sampling or non-sampling errors, which might be substantial.

The difficulty with this indicator lies in identifying disability in children after death. Accurately identifying disability in children requires a fairly long set of questions, as can be seen in a study carried out in 2018 by Mitchell Loeb and others.

Data on under-5 mortality disaggregated by cause of death can be found on the website of the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. The largest share of under-5 mortality arises from complications at birth or congenital conditions.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides estimates on mortality rates of children under 5 years of age by sex. Estimates are also generated by the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, which has a list of data sources used for this estimate. For many countries, these rates are also determined through Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, but there is no question about disability for deceased children. The same is true for Demographic and Health Surveys.

7.22: Prevalence of undernourishment of children (based on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.1.1), disaggregated by sex, age and disability

Level 2: Indicator can be produced with straightforward additions or modifications to existing data collection efforts

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

According to the metadata:

> The ideal source of data to estimate the prevalence of undernourishment would be a carefully designed and skilfully conducted individual dietary intake survey, in which actual daily food consumption, together with heights and weights for each surveyed individual, is repeatedly measured on a sample that is representative of the target population. Due to their cost, however, such surveys are rare.
>
> In principle, a well-designed household survey that collects information on food acquisitions might be sufficient to inform a reliable estimate of the prevalence of undernourishment in a population, at a reasonable cost and with the necessary periodicity to inform the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring process, provided that:
>
> 1. All sources of food consumption for all members of the households are properly accounted for, including, in particular, food that is consumed away from home;
> 2. Sufficient information is available to convert the data on food consumption or on food expenditures into their contribution to dietary energy intake;
> 3. The proper methods to compute the prevalence of undernourishment are used, to control for excess variability in the estimated levels of habitual food consumption across households, allowing for the presence of normal variability in the distribution of food consumption across individuals, induced by the differences in energy requirements of the members of the population.
>
> Examples of surveys that could be considered for this purpose include those conducted to compute economic statistics and poverty assessments, such as Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, household budget surveys and Living Standards Measurement Studies.
>
> To inform its estimate of the prevalence of undernourishment at national, regional and global levels, in addition to all household surveys through which it is possible to obtain microdata on food consumption, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) relies on:

1. World Population Prospects of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which provides updated estimates of the structures of the national population by sex and age every two years for most countries worldwide;

2. Food balance sheets, which provide updated estimates of the national availability of food every year for most countries worldwide.

Microdata from household surveys that collect food consumption data are sourced by FAO directly through websites of national statistical offices or through specific bilateral agreements.

Collection process

Official information on food commodity production, trade and utilization used by FAO to compile food balance sheets is provided mainly by statistical units of ministries of agriculture. FAO sends out a data collection questionnaire every year to an identified focal point.

Microdata on household surveys are generally owned and provided by national statistical offices. When available, data are sourced by FAO directly through the website of a national statistical office. In several cases, when microdata are not available in the public domain, bilateral agreements have been signed, usually in the context of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes.

To obtain this information for children with disabilities, the Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Module that is incorporated into Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys would have to be used.

7.23: Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight) (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.2.2), disaggregated by sex, age and disability

Level 2: Indicator can be produced with straightforward additions or modifications to existing data collection

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

According to the metadata:

For the majority of countries, nationally representative household surveys constitute the data source. For a limited number of countries, data from surveillance systems are used if sufficient population coverage is documented (about 80 per cent). For both data sources, the child's height and weight measurements are to be collected following recommended

standard measuring techniques (World Health Organization (WHO), *WHO Child Growth Standards: Training Course on Child Growth Assessment* (Geneva, 2008)).

Collection process

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO and the World Bank Group jointly review new data sources to update country-level estimates. Each agency uses its existing mechanisms for obtaining data.

For WHO, see the published database methodology (de Onis and others, "Methodology for estimating regional and global trends of childhood malnutrition", *International Journal of Epidemiology,* vol. 33, No. 6 (December 2004), pp. 1260–1270). For UNICEF, the cadre of dedicated data and monitoring specialists working at national, regional and international levels in 190 countries routinely provide technical support for the collection and analysis of data. For the past 20 years, UNICEF has undertaken an annual process of updating its global databases called "Country reporting on indicators for the Goals". This exercise is done in close collaboration with UNICEF country offices with the purpose of ensuring that UNICEF global databases contain updated and internationally comparable data. UNICEF country offices are invited to submit, through an online system, nationally representative data for over 100 key indicators on the well-being of women and children, including on stunting. Country office staff work with local counterparts to ensure that the most relevant data are shared. Updates sent by the country offices are then reviewed by sector specialists at UNICEF headquarters to check for consistency and overall data quality of the submitted estimates and to carry out reanalysis where possible. This review is based on a set of objective criteria to ensure that only the most reliable information is included in the databases. Once reviewed, feedback is made available on whether or not specific data points have been accepted and, if not, the reasons why. UNICEF uses these data obtained through "Country reporting on indicators for the Goals" to feed into the joint data set. The World Bank Group provides estimates available through the Living Standards Measurement Studies, usually requiring the reanalysis of data sets given that stunting data are often not tabulated in the study reports.

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys include a series of questions about malnutrition and the Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Module. As an example, data from the Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2017/18 are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Percentage of children under 5 years of age by nutritional status according to three anthropometric indices: weight for age, height for age and weight for height, Ghana

Background characteristic	*Weight for age*		*Height for age*		*Weight for height*				No. of children under 5 years of age
	Underweight (percentage)		Stunted (percentage)		Wasted (percentage)		Overweight (percentage)		
	-2 SD	*-3 SD*	*-2 SD*	*-3 SD*	*-2 SD*	*-3 SD*	*+2 SD*	*+3 SD*	
Total	12.6	2.4	17.5	4.8	6.8	1.1	1.4	0.3	8,775

Background characteristic	*Weight for age*		*Height for age*		*Weight for height*				No. of children under 5 years of age
	Underweight (percentage)		Stunted (percentage)		Wasted (percentage)		Overweight (percentage)		
	-2 SD	*-3 SD*	*-2 SD*	*-3 SD*	*-2 SD*	*-3 SD*	*+2 SD*	*+3 SD*	
Sex									
Male	14.1	3.2	19.5	5.7	7.8	1.3	1.5	0.2	4,308
Female	11.0	1.6	15.6	3.9	5.9	1.0	1.3	0.3	4,467
Age (in months)									
0-5	11.8	3.4	7.5	2.7	13.4	4.4	3.4	1.1	802
6-11	14.7	4.0	9.6	2.6	14.9	2.7	1.7	0.4	866
12-17	14.0	3.7	14.8	3.3	10.5	2.8	0.7	0.0	819
18-23	18.7	2.6	22.4	6.6	9.9	0.8	0.3	0.0	860
24-5	12.2	2.7	23.1	5.6	4.7	0.3	1.7	0.3	1,729
36-47	12.0	1.4	21.3	6.9	3.1	0.1	1.2	0.2	1,914
48-59	9.0	1.1	15.4	3.3	2.8	0.2	1.0	0.0	1,785

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, *Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2017/18: Survey Findings Report* (Accra, 2018).

Note: SD – standard deviation.

The Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Module identifies children with functional difficulties, beginning at 2 years of age. Thus, the survey report of Ghana could have included data on nutrition disaggregated by the child's functional difficulties (2–4 years of age), as presented in table 2.

Table 2: Nutrition disaggregated by child's functional difficulties (2-4 years of age)

Background characteristics	Weighted (percentage)	*Number of children under 5 years of age*	
		Weighted	Unweighted
Child's functional difficulties (2-4 years of age)			
Has functional difficulty	10.8	593	551
Has no functional difficulty	89.2	4,903	4,862

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, *Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2017/18: Survey Findings Report* (Accra, 2018).

7.24: Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 8.7.1) and disability

Level 1: Indicator for which data are already being produced and reported on in at least some countries

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

According to the metadata:

> Household surveys, such as national labour force surveys, national multipurpose household surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys, the Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour, and Living Standards Measurement Studies, are among the most important instruments for generating information on child labour in developing countries. Estimates of child labour generated by these survey instruments are increasingly relied on by countries to monitor progress towards national and global child labour elimination targets. Many countries also produce national labour estimates and reports that often include data on child labour or employment among children.

In the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in Mongolia, data were collected on children's engagement in economic activities and household chores. Data were used to calculate the percentage of children engaged in child labour by identifying the children performing economic activities and/or household chores at or above, and below, the age-specific thresholds, as well as children reportedly working under hazardous conditions. In the survey report, the data were disaggregated by nine characteristics: sex, region, area, school attendance, mother's education, child's functional difficulty, mother's functional difficulty, ethnicity and wealth quintile. Some of these results are presented in table 3.

Table 3: Percentage and number of children aged 5–17 years involved in economic activities or household chores, working under hazardous conditions and engaged in child labour, during the previous week, Mongolia, 2018

	Children involved in economic activities for a total number of hours during last week		Children involved in household chores for a total number of hours during last week		Children working under hazardous condition (%)	Total child labour (%)	Number of children aged 5–17 years (%)
	Below the age-specific threshold (%)	At or above the age-specific threshold (%)	Below the age-specific threshold (%)	At or above the age-specific threshold (%)			
Total	8.7	7.9	75.5	6.6	7.8	16.7	12,273

	Children involved in economic activities for a total number of hours during last week		Children involved in household chores for a total number of hours during last week		Children working under hazardous condition (%)	Total child labour (%)	Number of children aged 5–17 years (%)
	Below the age-specific threshold (%)	At or above the age-specific threshold (%)	Below the age-specific threshold (%)	At or above the age-specific threshold (%)			
Sex							
Male	10.8	9.1	74.1	7.1	10.0	20.1	6,320
Female	6.3	6.5	77.0	6.1	5.4	13.2	5,953
Child's functional difficulty (aged 2–4 years)							
Has functional difficulty	11.3	8.5	62.9	11.7	8.8	21.8	725
Has no functional difficulty	8.6	7.8	76.3	6.3	7.8	16.5	11,436

Source: National Statistical Office of Mongolia, *Mongolia Social Indicator Sample Survey 2018: Survey Findings Report* (Ulaanbaatar, 2019), pp. 229–231.

7.25: Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 4.1.1), disability and minority or indigenous background (see also indicator 24.28 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

Level 1: Indicator for which data are already being produced and reported on in at least some countries

Link to the metadata related to this Sustainable Development Goal indicator

According to the metadata:

> Information for this indicator can be found in school and population-based learning assessments, such as the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, the Programme for the Analysis of Education Systems and the Laboratorio Latinoamericano de Evaluación de la Calidad de la

Educación, as well as in household-based surveys, such as the sixth round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the surveys of the People's Action for Learning Network.

The latest round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (the sixth round) contains a questionnaire for children aged 5–17 years, which was not included in earlier surveys. There is a section on foundational learning skills, where the child is asked to read a passage and answer questions, and to answer basic math questions. Because the survey also contains the Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Module, an analyst could create a cross-tabulation of disability and learning skills. In fact, in the tabulation plan of the sixth round of the survey, it is recommended that countries present the percentage of respondents who demonstrated foundational reading skills and the percentage who demonstrated foundational math skills by the child's functional difficulty ("has functional difficulty" or "has no functional difficulty"). Examples of such data, from the Gambia, can be found in tables 4 and 5.

Table 4: Percentage of children aged 7–14 years who demonstrated foundational reading skills, by sex, the Gambia

	Percentage who correctly read 90% of words in a story	Percentage who correctly answered comprehension questions		Percentage who demonstrated foundational reading skills	Number of children age 7-14 years
		Three literal	*Two inferential*		
Male					
Has functional difficulty	13.6	14.9	17.9	10.8	729
Has no functional difficulty	16.5	13.9	13.9	11.2	5,015
Female					
Has functional difficulty	9.2	5.2	7.9	2.3	617
Has no functional difficulty	20.3	18	17.3	14.5	6,452
Total (male and female)					
Has functional difficulty	11.6	10.5	13.3	6.9	1,346
Has no functional difficulty	18.6	16.2	15.8	13.1	11,467

Source: Based on Gambia Bureau of Statistics, *The Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018: Survey Findings Report* (Banjul, 2019), p. 321.

Table 5: Percentage of children aged 7–14 years who demonstrated foundational numeracy skills, by sex, the Gambia

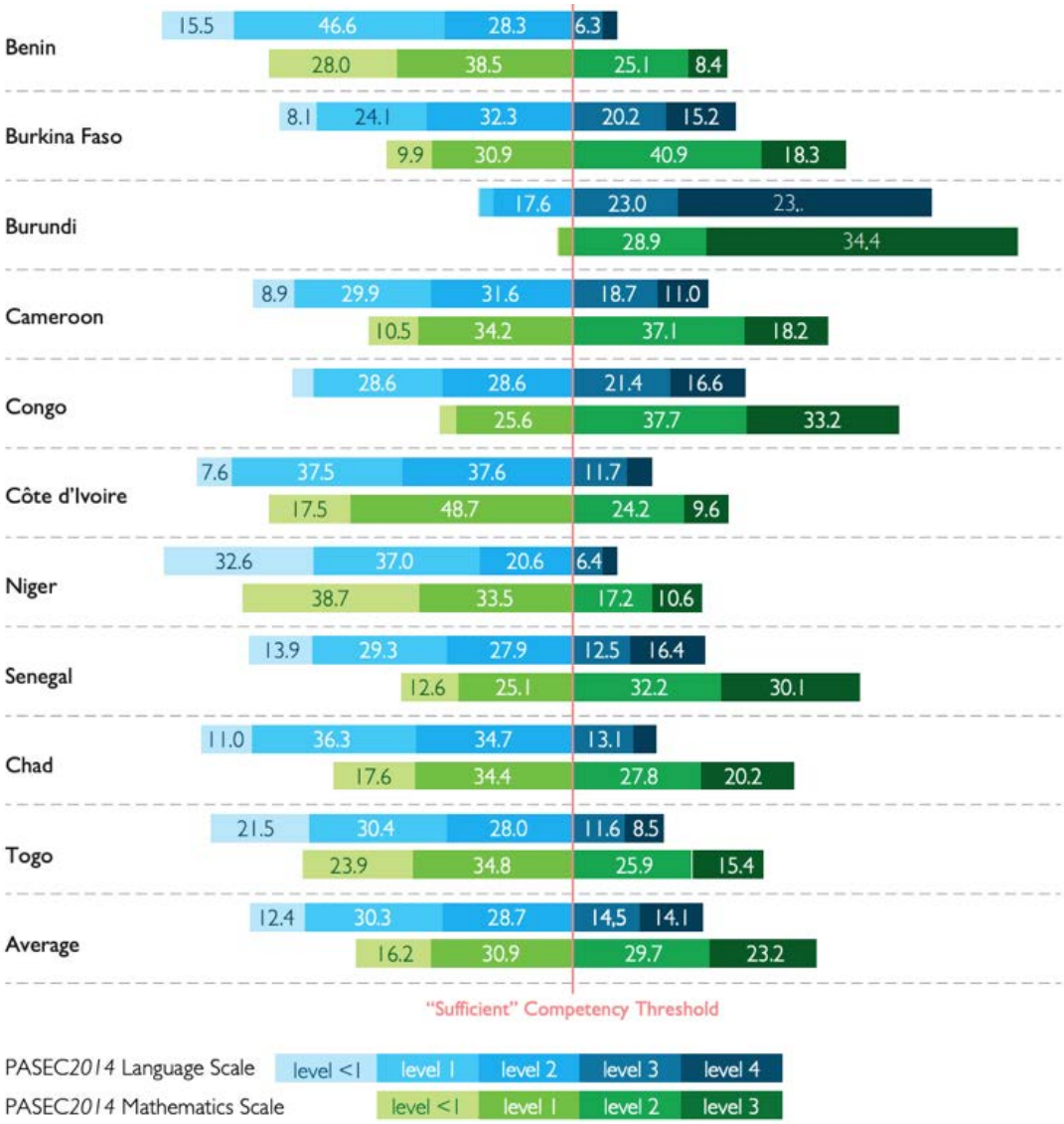
	Percentage of children who successfully completed numeracy tasks				Percentage of children who demonstrate foundational numeracy skills	Number of children age 7-14 years
	Number reading	Number discrimination	Addition	Pattern recognition and completion		
Male						
Has functional difficulty	29.7	37.8	35.5	17.1	7.0	682
Has no functional difficulty	36.6	40.4	28.7	10.1	6.8	4,796
Female						
Has functional difficulty	20.9	30.4	25.6	10.6	8.0	597
Has no functional difficulty	37.9	41.1	33.7	12.8	10.4	5,986
Total (male and female)						
Has functional difficulty	25.6	34.3	30.9	14.0	7.5	1,278
Has no functional difficulty	37.3	40.8	31.5	11.6	8.8	10,782

Source: Based on Gambia Bureau of Statistics, *The Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018: Survey Findings Report* (Banjul, 2019), p. 325.

The Programme for the Analysis of Education Systems of the CONFEMEN Countries published *PASEC2014 – Education System Performance in Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa: Competencies and Learning Factors in Primary Education*, in which it reports on the prevalence of hearing and visual disabilities based on self-reports by children who took the assessment. However, the assessment results are not cross-referenced with the disability results.

The figure below shows the percentage of pupils at each competency level, per country and per subject. These percentages are distributed on both sides of the "sufficient" threshold. It is thus straightforward to determine the cumulated percentage of pupils whose level sits above or below the threshold. The graph also indicates the percentage of pupils who reach each level of the competency scales: the bars in shades of blue represent the percentage of pupils who reach a certain level in language, and those in shades of green represent the percentage of pupils who reach a certain level in mathematics.

Figure I: Percentage of pupils by competency level achieved in language and mathematics: early primary



Source: Programme for the Analysis of Education Systems of the CONFEMEN Countries, *PASEC2014 Education System Performance in Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa: Competencies and Learning Factors in Primary Education* (Dakar, 2019), p. 36.

7.26: Number and proportion of children with disabilities in alternative care (as compared to all children in alternative care) with a breakdown of place of residence: in a family setting; in small group homes; or in other residential care facilities; disaggregated by age, sex, disability and type of setting (see also indicator 23.25 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

Level 2: Indicator can be produced with existing data but has not been reported on

According to Petrowski, Cappa and Gross in "Estimating the number of children in formal alternative care: challenges and results", the main sources of data for this indicator are relevant government ministries.

In 2009, Eurochild collected information on the number of children in alternative care, including those in residential and family-based care. A total of 30 European countries participated in the survey, with data mainly provided through administrative records from relevant government ministries and national statistical offices.

The Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity database contains over 400 indicators relevant to the social and economic well-being of children, young people and women in 28 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union, including the number of children in institutions or family care. Each year, country-specific data collection templates are shared with national statistical offices, filled in and submitted by countries by the end of September, with data from the previous year. In the template, countries are asked to report on children in different types of care situations by gender, age, reason for their need for care and disability status. Countries generally report on some, but not all, variables, as can be seen in the example in table 6, from Czechia.

Table 6: Child protection in Czechia

Variable	2013	2014
Children without parental care		
Total number of children left without parental care (during the year)	5,992	5,935
Number of children with disabilities left without parental care (during the year)	3,523	3,281
Total number of children without parental care, placed into care during the current year	6,683	6,063
Children in residential care		

Variable	2013	2014
Total number of children in residential care (at the end of the year)	22,602	22,810
Total number of children with disabilities in residential care (at the end of the year)	11,898	11,569
Public residential care		
Total number of children in public residential care (at the end of the year)	20,857	21,067
Total number of children with disabilities in public residential care (at the end of the year)	11,898	11,569
Total number of children with disabilities in non-public residential care (at the end of the year)	..	..
Family-type care	..	..
Foster care		
Number of children with disabilities in foster care (at the end of the year)	243	323
Guardian care	-	-
Total number of children in guardian care (at the end of the year)	2,908	3,005
Number of children with disabilities in guardian care (at the end of the year)	..	..
Total number of adopted children with disabilities (during the year)	..	..
Number of children with disabilities adopted internationally (during the year)	..	..
Number of children with disabilities available for adoption (at the end of the year)	..	..

Source: UNICEF, "Czech Republic country data, 1989–2015", Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity database. Available at https://transmonee.org/country/czech-republic/.

7.27: Proportion of children with disabilities participating in forums, including through their own organizations, at school and local, regional and national governance levels, disaggregated by sex, age and disability

Level 2: Indicator can be produced with existing data but has not been reported on

Such data could be obtained from national disability surveys that ask about participation in civic events, such as the Viet Nam National Survey on People with Disabilities, which reports on the percentage of persons, by disability status, participating in social and professional organizations (47 per cent for persons without disabilities and 44 per cent for persons with disabilities) and in community clubs (both at 2 per cent).

It is possible to obtain data on extracurricular activities from surveys. For example, in the National Survey of Children's Health in the United States of America, respondents are asked

about participation in sports, clubs and other after-school activities.

7.28: Number of organizations led by children and young persons with disabilities, disaggregated by type of disability and geographical area or district

Level 3: Indicator for which acquiring data is more complex or requires the development of data collection mechanisms that are not currently in place

A potential source for these data is government disability focal points, who at times keep records of organizations of persons with disabilities.