



Economic Playgrounds 2016

COMPARING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN G20 COUNTRIES



Save the Children

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SHAPING THE FUTURE

Children born in 2016, the Chinese year of the monkey, are said to be playful, clever and curious. A wonderful combination for any child. Yet, the lives and opportunities for these children depend critically on the choices made by our political and economic leaders. And, a key forum for this leadership is the G20 (see adjacent box).¹ As the host nation for this year's G20, China has put prosperity for all on the agenda. The Chinese President has said the sustainable development agenda should be one of four key focus areas for the G20, with the aim being to create a strong impetus for equitable and inclusive development.²

Save the Children applauds this focus on equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. While robust economic growth is critical for providing the resources and opportunities for all children to thrive, we know economic growth alone is not sufficient for all children to prosper. For example, in wealthy Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations, families with children are more likely to be poor today than in previous decades.³ Rather, **inclusive growth** is the key to providing equitable and inclusive development for all.

At Save the Children, **inclusive growth** means:

- Every woman, man and child has the opportunity to participate in economic growth. Equal access to public services, including education and health, and availability of decent work, are fundamental elements of equal opportunity.
- Every woman, man and child benefits from economic growth such that income and assets are fairly distributed. A high degree of income and social inequality is therefore inconsistent with inclusive growth.

All children have the same rights. Inclusive growth that is underpinned by a fair distribution through the tax system, that provides equal treatment for all citizens, and is accountable to its objectives can reinforce efforts to deliver these rights. The G20's focus on inclusive growth can advantage every last child irrespective of where they live or who they are – especially those children that are systematically excluded.⁴

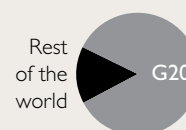
Inequality of key outcomes such as education and child health is not an inevitable part of development. Save the Children works towards a world where all children are able to survive, thrive and be protected. To deliver this, we recognise the need to challenge inequality both within and between countries. To complement our focus on closing the gaps between groups and reaching everyone, we have ranked G20 nations in terms of outcomes that unlock the potential of children and young people. These outcomes include good health, quality education, a safe neighbourhood and a clean environment.

This is the second Economic Playgrounds report that looks at how G20 economies compare across dimensions that affect the lives of children. Save the Children produced the first in 2014. We encourage leaders to measure their country's progress by viewing economic growth as a means to an end - an end that delivers social, environmental and economic prosperity for all, especially children.

THE WORLD'S PREMIER ECONOMIC FORUM

The G20 or 'Group of 20' (19 countries plus the European Union) was formed in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers. In the wake of the Global Financial Crisis, it was elevated to a Leaders' Summit in 2008. The G20 account for **85 percent** of the global economy (whereas the G7 economies account for one third). The G20 is therefore the right place to talk about the inclusive economic growth and prosperity for the world's children.

SHARE OF GLOBAL
GROSS DOMESTIC
PRODUCT (GDP)





Our analysis shows that even among the world's most developed, powerful and rich economies, there can be vast disparity in how children are treated and how prosperous their futures appear to be. Many states are falling short of their commitment to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child: while average rates of progress in reducing poverty have been impressive in many countries, billions of people across the world are being left behind. Many of these are children whose prospects for survival, learning and protection are threatened because of where they live, or that they are girls, refugees, disabled or belong to a minority group. By focusing on inclusive growth and reducing within-country inequality, we can reach every last child.

We welcome growing recognition of this in recent years by the G20 leadership. At the Turkey G20 summit in 2015, for the first time, G20 leaders acknowledged that rising inequality may negatively impact growth and pose a risk to social cohesion. Countries also presented enhanced growth strategies with an added focus on promoting greater inclusiveness and reducing inequality.

We urge the G20 to go further in translating policy into action for the benefit of all people. We are calling on the world's largest economies to adopt **Three Guarantees for Children:**

- **Make finance fair:** Adopt progressive national tax systems that benefit the poorest and most excluded people in society, and finance universal coverage of essential health and education services and child-sensitive social protection. Reform international tax practices that allow secrecy and profit shifting: agree to public disclosure of profits and taxes by multinational firms in each country of operation, and to public registers of the true owners of companies and trusts.
- **Equal treatment:** Be the first to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): reach every last child by ending discrimination and legal barriers to social and economic participation. Help other countries achieve the SDGs by investing 0.7 percent of national income in aid flows, particularly to least developed countries. Set in place national plans for an inclusive growth agenda to reach the poorest and most excluded families and children.
- **Be accountable:** Measure what matters. Commit to reducing income inequality and agree on consistent measurement of child poverty including measurement of multidimensional and monetary poverty, and social exclusion factors. Analyse, track and report on how well a nation protects its children and their families, enabling all households to take up opportunities for income creation.

MEASURING CHILD POVERTY

When measuring child outcomes and wellbeing, the issue of child poverty is inescapable. Despite the great progress brought by the Millennium Development Goals in reducing poverty, it is estimated that 'vast numbers of children worldwide continue to suffer from disproportionate levels of poverty in both richer and poorer countries', including in the G20 countries. 'In the developing world, where the majority of the poor live, a staggering 39 percent of children⁵ — including some 569 million children aged 18 and under — are struggling to survive in "extreme poverty"',⁶ as measured by the \$1.25 a day (2005 PPP) indicator:

Adding to this, 'large numbers of children living in households with incomes above \$1.25 a day still experience poverty according to national definitions or are deprived of the minimum basic needs and services they need to survive, develop and thrive.'⁷ This reflects the underlying difficulty of measuring poverty and, specifically, child poverty.

In G20 countries, the OECD has estimated that countries such as the United States, Spain, Mexico and Turkey have child relative poverty rates between 20 and 30 percent,⁸ clearly highlighting that this is not a problem exclusive to low income countries. In fact, 'two decades ago 93 percent of world's poor lived in Low Income Countries — as more and more Low Income have graduated to Middle Income Countries now 75 percent of world's poor live in Middle Income Countries'. This clearly indicates that economic growth without inclusive and pro-poor measures is not enough to eradicate poverty; without these, economic growth contributes for rising income inequality that has proven links to declining child outcomes, among other issues.⁹

Due to the difficulty of measuring child poverty on an international level, the Index does not directly include child poverty data. It does however capture income levels which are also relevant in assessing poverty. It also captures relevant child outcomes that have proven links with poverty such as life expectancy or school attendance.

When adding to poverty discrimination and vulnerability, 'the devastating life-long effects are especially acute: girls, children belonging to indigenous or minority ethnic groups; children with disabilities; and children living outside of households are among those for whom the risks of poverty and its consequences can be particularly acute.'¹⁰

Save the Children has recently called for disaggregated data on excluded groups and children, especially to align with SDG indicators.¹¹ In this Index we aim to represent inequality issues as best as possible through income inequality and call on the G20 to improve the availability of data measuring poverty by age brackets and to capture possible exclusion factors. Improved data is necessary to inform the discussion of inclusive growth and break the cycle of poverty for children.



Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

DIMENSIONS OF CHILD PROSPERITY INDEX

The Child Prosperity Index is a snapshot of the quality of a country's economic playground. It allows for a simple comparison of a child's life chances across G20 countries based on eight dimensions that we believe are important for children's lives. It also lays down markers for where *within country differences* require closer examination if our goal of reaching every last child is to be met. Construction of the index draws on the work of others, most importantly UNICEF's Office of Research: Measuring Child Wellbeing in Rich Countries. Each country is assessed according to 18 indicators across eight dimensions using the latest available data. The methodology behind the selection of the indicators is described in detail in the Annex.

EIGHT DIMENSIONS OF CHILD PROSPERITY

HEALTH	EDUCATION	INCOME	SAFETY	EMPLOYMENT	GENDER EQUALITY	INFRASTRUCTURE	ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy • Child mortality • Child obesity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years of schooling • Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)¹² Scores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP per capita • Income inequality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homicide rates • Traffic deaths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth unemployment • Slavery index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender inequality index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of electricity • Access to water • Access to sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected areas • Air pollution • CO₂ emissions

Save the Children is also focused on challenging within country differences as part of a three-year campaign drawing a spotlight on equity among children. Few would argue that a child's life chances should be determined before they are born. But across the world, in high and low income countries alike, children's prospects in life are largely determined by factors outside of their control – their birthplace, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic group, and whether or not they have a disability.

As stated in Save the Children's Global Campaign Report, 'it is worth noting that many countries with growing inequalities have experienced impressive rates of economic growth', meaning that 'growth does not necessarily deliver equality of life chances between children.'¹³ Shared development hinges on shifting the trajectory of economic growth onto a more inclusive and pro-poor pathways, ensuring all children have equal chances to survive and thrive in life. This includes removing discriminatory laws and breaking down barriers that exclude children and their families so that they can participate in their country's economic growth, and share equally in its benefits.

In this report, we recognise the results do not reflect major disparities within countries. Monitoring progress through average rates of change masks inequalities between different groups. For example, a baby born in the poorest households in Indonesia is three times more likely to die compared to a baby born in the richest households.¹⁴ A general lack of disaggregated data at the country level prevents more detailed comparison between groups of this kind on most indicators. However, we have included three case studies (Australia, Indonesia and China) that shed light on inequality within countries by showing the variation behind the average educational performance. The rationale behind selecting these case studies is discussed in the methodology section.

The adjacent table presents the overall rank in the Child Prosperity Index, GDP per capita,¹⁶ and Human Development Index (HDI)¹⁷ Rank for each G20 country based on performance across the eight dimensions: Health, Education, Income, Safety, Employment, Gender Equality, Infrastructure and the Environment. A table with the rank across all dimensions is presented on the following page.

Key Findings:

- At the top of the table, **Germany** is ranked first across three dimensions (gender, employment and income) and second in three (education, environment and safety)
- Even among the richer countries there are some disparities. Countries such as **Germany** and **France** stand out as strong performers, while the **US** and **Saudi Arabia** rank well below the average for G20 countries of a similar level of GDP per capita.
- Even though these are middle-income countries, **China** and **Turkey** rank above some high-income countries (**Russia** and **Argentina**). **China** outperforms most middle-income countries across all dimensions of the index, including for the environment.
- In general, there is still a huge disparity between the results for high-income and middle-income G20 countries on the majority of indicators.
- Gender equality and education are very closely associated with overall performance. **Germany** performed best on gender equality, **Canada** performed best on education.

CHILD PROSPERITY INDEX

COUNTRY	RANK	GDP PER CAPITA	HDI RANK
Germany	1	\$47,033	6
France	2	\$41,221	22
Japan	3	\$38,211	20
Australia	4 (equal)	\$47,318	2
Canada	4 (equal)	\$45,489	9
United Kingdom	6	\$40,958	14
Republic of Korea	7	\$36,528	17
Italy	8	\$35,665	27
United States	9	\$55,904	8
Turkey	10	\$20,277	72
China	11	\$14,190	90
Russia	12	\$23,744	50
Argentina	13	\$22,375	40
Mexico	14	\$18,335	74
Saudi Arabia	15	\$53,565	39
Indonesia	16	\$11,112	110
Brazil	17	\$15,690	75
South Africa	18	\$13,197	116
India	19	\$6,209	130

Note that the G20 is comprised of 19 countries plus the European Union. Only the 19 countries are included in this analysis.¹⁵

KEY FINDINGS

CHILD PROSPERITY INDEX BY DIMENSION

COUNTRY	RANK	GENDER	INFRASTRUCTURE	ENVIRONMENT	HEALTH	EDUCATION	SAFETY	EMPLOYMENT	INCOME
Germany	1	1	5	2	4	2	2	1	1
France	2	3	3	3	3	9	5	10	4
Japan	3	7	4	11	1	6	3	2	8
Australia	4	4	6	13	5	4	4	5	3
Canada	4	6	2	16	6	1	7	4	2
United Kingdom	6	8	1	4	8	5	1	6	7
Republic of Korea	7	5	10	19	2	3	9	3	6
Italy	8	2	8	7	7	11	6	17	9
United States	9	11	7	15	12	7	10	7	5
Turkey	10	13	11	10	10	12	8	14	12
China	11	9	15	18	9	10	13	9	16
Russia	12	10	16	14	13	8	16	15	11
Argentina	13	15	13	8	14	13	11	12	14
Mexico	14	14	12	6	16	15	17	8	17
Saudi Arabia	15	12	9	12	18	16	15	16	10
Indonesia	16	18	19	5	11	18	12	13	13
Brazil	17	17	14	1	15	17	18	11	18
South Africa	18	16	17	9	19	14	19	18	19
India	19	19	18	17	17	19	14	19	15

STRUCTURE OF REPORT

This Report is structured as follows:

1. **Progress** achieved in recent years (since the first report was published in 2014) is highlighted with a specific focus on three key indicators of child wellbeing (average years of education, under-five mortality and the gender inequality index).
2. An overview of the **Main Findings for each Dimension** are presented along with *three spotlight case studies* on education for China, Australia and Indonesia about within-country inequality.
3. Individual **Country Report Cards** are provided whereby countries are split into high and middle-income countries to look at how each performs relative to its peers across all 18 indicators.
4. The Annex contains a detailed discussion of the **Methodology** used to calculate the index as well as the sources used for each indicator.



Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS

Since the first Economic Playgrounds report was produced in 2014 progress has been achieved for many G20 countries, which has led to changes in the rankings on the overall Child Prosperity Index. These are summarised in the table below:

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE MOVED UP THE INDEX

Canada moved up from 6th to equal 4th, which was driven by relative improvement in:

- Infrastructure
- Education
- Employment

Indonesia has moved from 17th to 16th, which was driven by relative improvement in:

- Income

Japan has moved from 4th to 3rd, which was driven by relative improvement in:

- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Employment

Mexico has moved from 15th to 14th, which was driven by relative improvement in:

- Infrastructure
- Health

United Kingdom (UK) has moved from 7th to 6th, which was driven by relative improvement in:

- Education
- Employment
- Income

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE MOVED DOWN THE INDEX

Australia falls from 3rd to equal 4th, which was driven by relative deterioration in:

- Infrastructure
- Education
- Employment

Brazil moved from 16th to 17th, which was driven by relative deterioration in:

- Gender
- Infrastructure
- Health

Republic of Korea moved from 5th to 7th, which was driven by relative deterioration in:

- Gender
- Infrastructure
- Employment

Saudi Arabia moved from 14th to 15th, which was driven by relative deterioration in:

- Environment
- Health
- Income

Most G20 countries are headed in the right direction – from India showing incredible progress on education (increased years of schooling) to China dramatically improving health (reduced child mortality) to South Africa and Russia advancing gender equality. The table on the following page shows changes in some indicators across the key dimensions of health, education and gender equality in recent years.

PROGRESS ACROSS THREE KEY DIMENSIONS IN RECENT YEARS: SELECT INDICATORS¹⁸

EDUCATION				HEALTH				GENDER			
Mean years of schooling				Child mortality rate				Gender inequality index			
Note: higher is better				Note: lower is better				Note: lower is better			
	2012	2014	Relative change (%)		2012	2015	Relative change (%)		2013	2015	Relative change (%)
India	4.43	5.40	21.9%	China	13.40	10.70	-20.1%	Russia	0.31	0.28	-12.1%
Brazil	7.18	7.70	7.3%	Turkey	16.50	13.50	-18.2%	South Africa	0.46	0.41	-11.7%
UK	12.31	13.10	6.4%	South Africa	47.70	40.50	-15.1%	Germany	0.05	0.04	-11.7%
Canada	12.26	13.00	6.0%	Mexico	15.30	13.20	-13.7%	Saudi Arabia	0.32	0.28	-11.5%
Russia	11.73	12.00	2.3%	UK	4.80	4.20	-12.5%	UK	0.19	0.18	-8.4%
Australia	12.80	13.00	1.6%	India	54.50	47.70	-12.5%	China	0.20	0.19	-5.3%
Indonesia	7.51	7.60	1.2%	Australia	4.30	3.80	-11.6%	Canada	0.14	0.13	-4.8%
Germany	12.95	13.10	1.2%	Russia	10.80	9.60	-11.1%	Japan	0.14	0.13	-3.8%
Republic of Korea	11.77	11.90	1.1%	Indonesia	30.40	27.20	-10.5%	Australia	0.11	0.11	-2.3%
Turkey	7.56	7.60	0.5%	Republic of Korea	3.80	3.40	-10.5%	Argentina	0.38	0.38	-1.2%
Mexico	8.47	8.50	0.4%	Japan	3.00	2.70	-10.0%	Indonesia	0.50	0.49	-1.1%
Japan	11.49	11.50	0.1%	Argentina	13.80	12.50	-9.4%	Mexico	0.38	0.37	-0.9%
Saudi Arabia	8.70	8.70	0.1%	Saudi Arabia	16.00	14.50	-9.4%	Turkey	0.36	0.36	-0.2%
Italy	10.10	10.10	0.0%	United States	7.10	6.50	-8.5%	India	0.56	0.56	0.0%
France	11.13	11.10	-0.3%	Italy	3.80	3.50	-7.9%	Italy	0.07	0.07	1.8%
Argentina	9.83	9.80	-0.3%	Canada	5.30	4.90	-7.5%	Brazil	0.44	0.46	3.6%
United States	12.94	12.90	-0.3%	Germany	4.00	3.70	-7.5%	United States	0.26	0.28	6.9%
South Africa	9.94	9.90	-0.4%	France	4.30	4.30	0.0%	France	0.08	0.09	10.2%
China	7.54	7.50	-0.5%	Brazil	16.00	16.40	2.5%	Korea	0.10	0.13	24.0%

Nonetheless, this is not a time to be complacent; we need stronger action to deliver prosperity for all, sooner rather than later, and especially for children. Some countries are heading in the wrong direction. For example, child mortality increased in Brazil and gender equality worsened in Republic of Korea. On average for G20 countries there was a slight deterioration for a number of the indicators. These were in relation to gender inequality, the quality of electricity, air pollution, CO₂ emissions, youth unemployment and income inequality.

MAIN FINDINGS FOR EACH DIMENSION

Health

The health dimension is measured by life expectancy, child mortality and childhood obesity. The highest ranked countries for health are Japan, Republic of Korea and France. The lowest ranked are South Africa, Saudi Arabia and India.

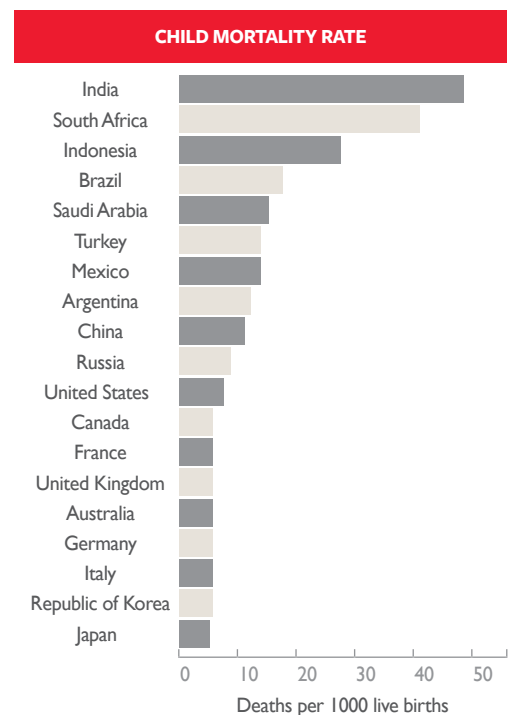
However, India has shown rapid progress in curbing infant and child mortality, with a 45 percent reduction in neonatal mortality from 1.35 million in 1990 to 0.76 million in 2012. Under-five mortality fell by nearly 60 percent in the same time. The India Newborn Action plan launched in 2014 declared an ambitious target of reducing infant mortality to single digits by 2025.

A high rate of child mortality lowers a country ranking. Most child deaths are preventable. Around the world, three-quarters of under-five deaths occur in Africa and South Asia. But children under five die needlessly in developed countries too. Children are at greater risk of dying before age five if they are born in rural areas, in poor households, or to a mother denied basic education.

The adjacent chart shows there is only a relatively small difference between performance in many middle income countries and some high income countries - the child mortality rate in China is less than twice the rate in the United States.

Life expectancy reflects the ability to lead a long and healthy life and to care for one's children. It also reflects the efficacy and affordability of a country's health system. Of the G20 countries, Japan has the highest life expectancy and South Africa the lowest.

Childhood obesity is another emerging challenge that affects both poor and rich countries alike. According to the World Health Organisation, childhood obesity is one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. Saudi Arabia has the highest levels of childhood obesity in the G20, whereas Japan has one of the lowest.



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators 2016

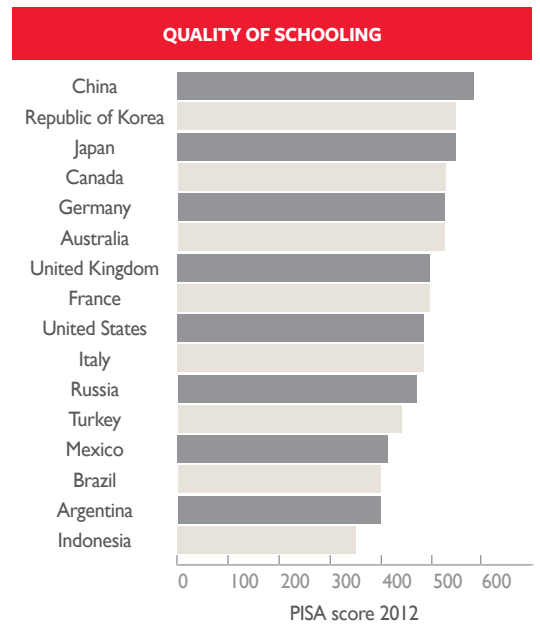


Education

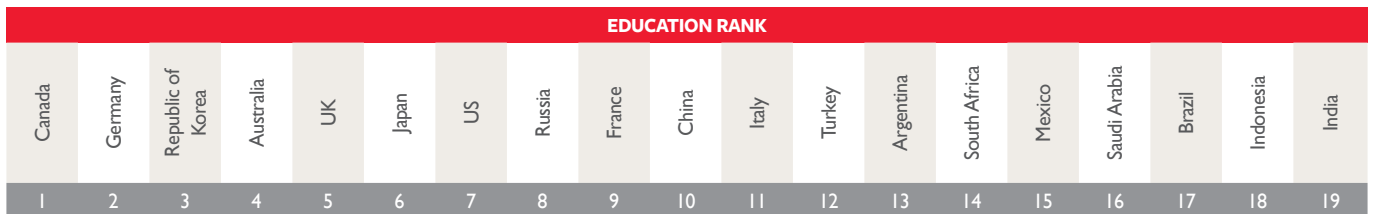
The education dimension is measured by years and quality of schooling. The highest ranked countries across these two aspects are Canada*, Germany and Republic of Korea. Among the lowest ranked are India, Indonesia and Brazil.

Education is the cornerstone of a child's opportunity to prosper. In 2015, as part of Sustainable Development Goal 4, the world committed for children everywhere, boys and girls alike, to complete secondary education. The average number of years of schooling is a useful starting point to compare education across countries. Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada have the highest levels of average years of schooling, while India, China, Indonesia and Turkey have the lowest.

Attending school is important, but even more critical is for children to learn something when they are there. All young people should have literacy, numeracy, and life skills to become active citizens with decent employment prospects. The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests competency in maths, reading and science among 15 year olds in 65 countries. The adjacent chart shows that China (followed by Republic of Korea and Japan) lead the G20 in terms of average scores in the PISA. However it is important to note that China's PISA score is only based upon a small number of the most highly educated regions in China (including Hong Kong and Shanghai). Although Indonesia, Argentina and Brazil perform the lowest, they are not very far behind the G20 average.



Source: OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2012
Note: India, Saudi Arabia and South Africa do not participate in the PISA



*While Canada fairs well when it comes to educational attainment when compared with other countries within Canada there are deep inequities that are based on race. Indigenous children, in particular status First Nation children living on reserve face education funding shortfalls up to 30 percent when compared to non-Indigenous children. While there have been improvements in dropout rates for Indigenous youth in recent years the current statistics are still shocking. Non-Indigenous youth have a 10 percent dropout rate, while the rate for First Nations youth living on reserve is 58 percent and for Indigenous youth living in cities and towns the rate is 30 percent.

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Providing children with access to high quality education is one of the most important investments that governments can make. Children benefit directly from education as it helps them reach their potential and the community benefits as higher average levels of quality education lead to more prosperous and peaceful societies. High quality education, beginning in early childhood, has the benefit of raising lifetime earnings for individuals, improving the overall productivity of the economy and helping to underpin inclusive growth over the longer term.

Masked within the aggregated rankings of the Child Prosperity Index are positive developments for some countries that were otherwise ranked low. For example, since 2000, India has reduced its 'out of school' children rate by over 90 percent and has attained universal primary education. India has also addressed an important gender outcome, being predicted to be the only country in South and West Asia to have an equal ratio of girls to boys in both primary and secondary education this year.

All G20 economies need to make progress on this dimension as many children from disadvantaged backgrounds are being left behind. The following three case studies on Indonesia, Australia and China highlight some disparities in regards to the level and quality of education within these countries. It is important to note that these case studies are illustrative and a spotlight could be placed on any of the G20 economies.



Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

Australia

The average level of education in Australia is 13 years, which is equivalent to finishing secondary education, and across all measures girls receive more education than boys. However indigenous children are less likely to finish secondary school than non-indigenous children. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, only around 60 percent of children complete secondary school compared to almost 90 percent of non-Indigenous Australians.¹⁹ The gap starts in early childhood education. In 2013, only 67 percent of four-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in the cities, 74 percent in regional and 85 percent in remote areas were enrolled in preschool, compared to the national benchmark of 95 percent.²⁰

More broadly, across Australia geographic differences in schooling are also apparent. Just over half the children from the Northern Territory (the region with the lowest levels of education) are likely to complete secondary school, whereas almost all children finish in the Australian Capital Territory (the region with the highest levels of education).

Australia's performance in the PISA is well above average for the G20 economies that participated, which indicates that in general the quality of education is high. However, these scores also show that there are pockets of poor performance, particularly at the lower end of the income distribution, which means that many students are being left behind, especially in mathematics. For example, the region with the lowest levels of education (the Northern Territory) achieved similar results in the PISA to middle income country, Turkey.

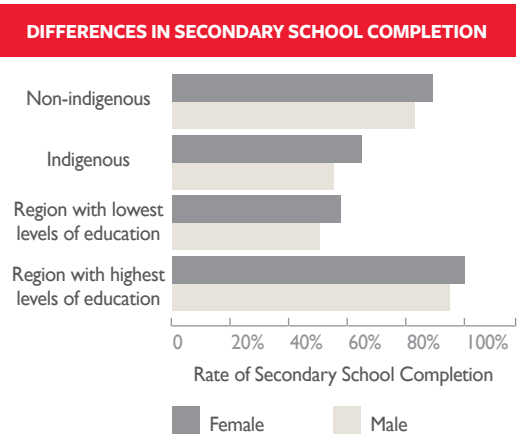


Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

Indonesia

The average level of education in Indonesia is around eight years, which is similar to China, for example. However, differences between groups are stark. Across all measures boys receive more education than girls.²¹ Children from rural areas average just over half the level of education of children from urban areas. On average, children from the richest 20 percent of households finish secondary school while children from the poorest 20 percent fail to complete primary school.

Inequality in education attainment leads to inequality in incomes as adults. The World Bank has found that a substantial amount of income inequality is explained by conditions children are born into – the most important factor being their parents' education and to a lesser extent, where a child was born.²²

Comparing education attainment by gender to other G20 economies, a man in the richest 20 percent in Indonesia averages a similar level of education to the average person in France. Whereas, on average, a woman from a rural area in Indonesia has a similar education level to the average individual across the South Asia region.

Indonesia performs quite poorly in terms of quality of education, with its average PISA score ranking the lowest out of the G20 economies that participated. Inequality between students' performance in the PISA in Indonesia has increased over the last decade and is now similar to the OECD average in 2012.²³

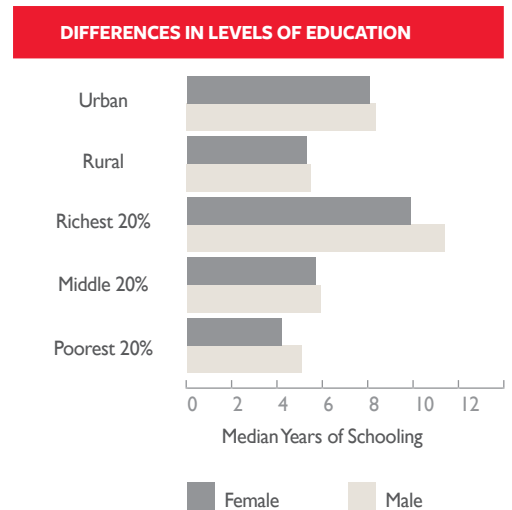


Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

China

The average level of education in China is around eight years. However, there is a significant divide between rural and urban areas. Even though data is limited, especially for children of rural migrants in urban areas, a recent 2015 study shows that while almost all children complete primary school in China there is a significant dropout rate of children throughout secondary school in rural areas (see adjacent chart).²⁴ This has led to a large gap in average years of schooling between rural and urban areas. Another disadvantaged group is children with disabilities, as approximately one-third do not complete the compulsory level of education.²⁵

At first glance, China's performance in the PISA is extraordinary, placing first out of all 65 countries that participated. However China's aggregate score is only based upon a small number of the most educated regions, including Shanghai and Hong Kong.²⁶ There was a high degree of equity in scores for students in these regions, but the PISA does not include children of rural migrants in these regions who would be expected to perform well below those from urban areas.

Inequalities in educational attainment and school quality are reinforced by the household registration or *hukou* system.²⁷ This presents particular challenges for migrant workers and their children living in urban areas who have limited access to social services outside their home province. Or, for the children of migrant workers left behind in rural areas.

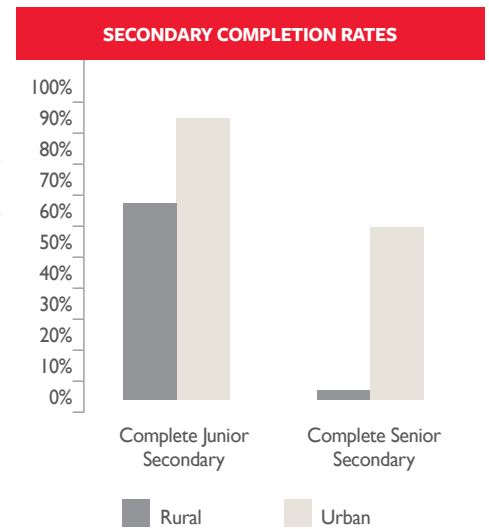


Photo: Nell Garfath-Cox/Save the Children

\$ Income

The income dimension incorporates GDP per capita and a measure of inequality (Gini). The highest ranked countries across these two aspects (relatively high average income and low inequality) are Germany, Canada and Australia. Among the lowest ranked are South Africa, Brazil and Mexico.

National income is important for providing the resources and opportunities for children to grow and thrive. GDP per capita provides a first glance indication of income levels for each person. But average income does not reveal potentially deep disparities. High-income inequality therefore lowers a country ranking. When there is high inequality, it becomes impossible for all children growing up to have an equal start in life. They simply won't have access to the same opportunities or resources.

The US has the highest income per capita, but it also has a high degree of income inequality. By contrast, Germany has managed to combine relatively low inequality with high income per capita.

In terms of middle-income countries, South Africa and Brazil have relatively high incomes per person, but extremely high levels of income inequality. In contrast, India and Indonesia have lower levels of incomes per person, but relatively more equitable distributions of income.

Inequalities often stem from historical patterns of discrimination that have systematically deprived particular groups of economic, social and political opportunities over time.²⁸ Addressing inequities requires strong political will and peer encouragement through forums such as the G20.



Photo: Jamie Baker/Save the Children

INCOME RANK																		
Germany	Canada	Australia	France	US	Republic of Korea	UK	Japan	Italy	Saudi Arabia	Russia	Turkey	Indonesia	Argentina	India	China	Mexico	Brazil	South Africa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

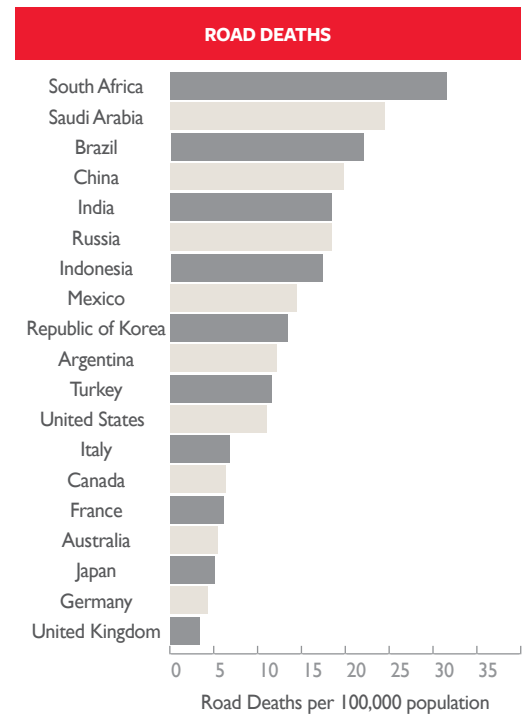
Safety

The safety dimension is measured by the homicide rate and road traffic death rate. The highest ranked countries (lowest death rates) are the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan. Among the lowest ranked are Mexico, Brazil and South Africa.

As one general measure of the level of safety for children and their caregivers within a country, the homicide rate is used. The highest rates of homicide in G20 countries are in South Africa, Brazil and Mexico compared with Japan, Germany and Indonesia.

Safety for children and young people also extends to accidental injury and death. Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people aged 15 to 29 years old²⁹ and a leading cause of child disability. The adjacent chart shows that the road traffic death rate is the highest in South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Brazil, whereas it is the lowest in Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.

More broadly, every child has the right to live and thrive in a safe and caring family environment, free from all forms of violence, including sexual violence. Children who are exposed to or witness violence experience acute and long-term damage to their physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. The consequences can be lifelong and intergenerational, and lead to reduced economic productivity.³⁰ More work is needed to measure and hold leaders to account on reducing violence so all children are protected in their homes, neighbourhoods and their countries.



Source: World Health Organisation, Global Health Observatory 2012



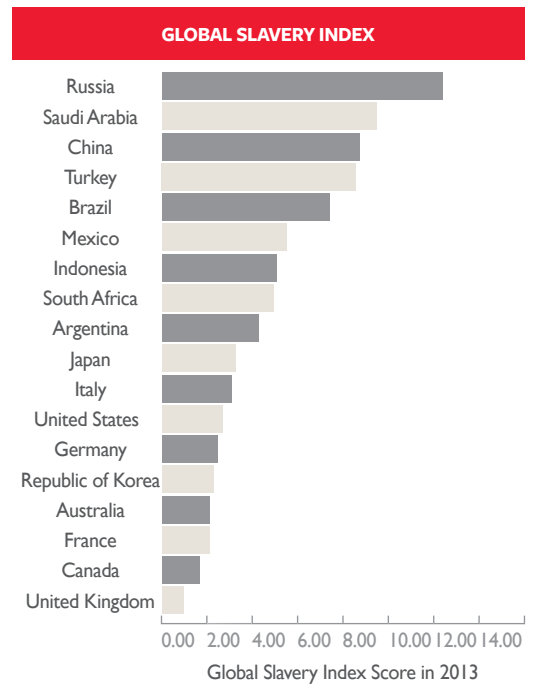
Employment

The employment dimension is measured by youth unemployment and the global slavery index. The highest ranked countries (low youth unemployment and slavery) are Germany, Japan and Republic of Korea. Among the lowest ranked are Italy and South Africa.

A job is important not only as a way to earn income but also for self-esteem and social connectedness. Globally, a disproportionate share of unemployed people are young people. Millions of young adults, particularly from poor and marginalised families, now form part of a growing bulge of young people who are struggling to make successful transitions from learning to gainful employment. The youth unemployment rate was around 50 percent in South Africa and Italy in 2014. Even in countries where it is relatively low, the youth unemployment rate is typically twice the national average.³¹ In addition, the rate does not capture underemployment or discouraged workers that have dropped out of the labour force or moved into the informal sector.

Not all forms of work are acceptable. Save the Children advocates for decent work for all people, protected by core labour standards and access to a reasonable wage. At the other extreme, the Global Slavery Index measures modern slavery by population, child marriage, and human trafficking. The adjacent chart shows Russia, Saudi Arabia and China all perform very poorly on this index.

Exploitative child labour – involving long hours with little pay, in hazardous and unhealthy environments – severely impacts a child’s life chances. The most vulnerable of all working children are those involved in armed conflict, sexual exploitation and illicit activities including organised begging and child trafficking.



Source: Walk Free Foundation, Global Slavery Index 2013



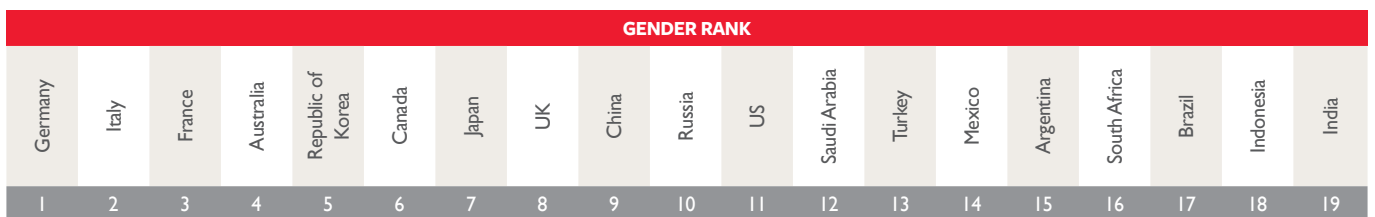
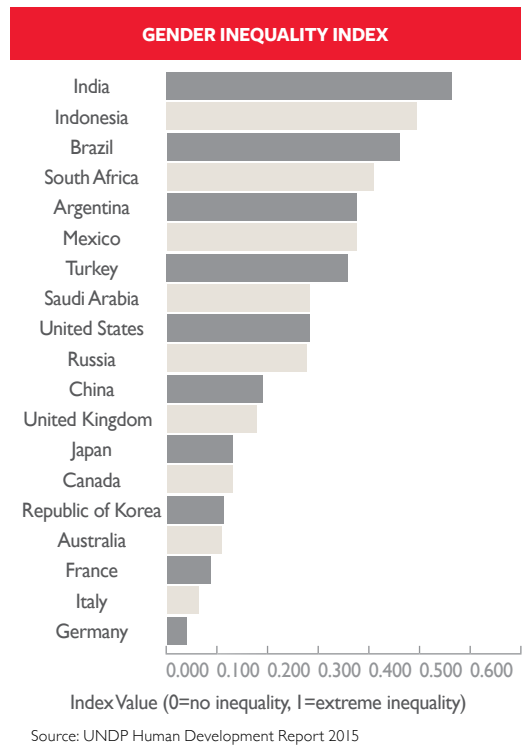
Gender equality

Gender equality is measured by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index and reflects three dimensions of reproductive health, empowerment and labour market participation.

As shown in the adjacent chart, the highest ranked countries (low gender inequality) are Germany, Italy and France. All have a low maternal mortality ratio, low adolescent fertility rate, relatively high share of seats occupied by women in national parliament, and a relatively low gap between female/male secondary education and workforce participation. The lowest ranked countries are India, Indonesia and Brazil – all of which have a very high maternal mortality ratio and mixed performance across the other indicators.

Gender equality is an important development goal in its own right alongside the transformational impact it can have on economic development. There are many structural problems that give countries a lower score on the gender equality index. For example, it is likely that countries that perform better on this index have fewer discriminatory laws and policies.

Addressing these structural problems will also empower women and girls to better able look after their own health and the health of their families and participate in education, income generation and civic life.



Infrastructure

The infrastructure dimension is measured by quality of electricity and access to water and sanitation. The highest ranked countries overall are the UK, Canada and France. The lowest ranked are South Africa, India and Indonesia.

A key focus of the G20 is infrastructure. Roads, ports and airports are important for commerce and labour mobility. But other structures are as vitally important for households and children. Water is a basic human need and sometimes freely available through rainwater and groundwater sources. But, access to clean water often requires infrastructure. Similarly, hygienic sanitation largely requires infrastructure. Children pay a very high price for unsafe water and sanitation. Diarrhoea, a waterborne disease, is the second leading cause of death in under-fives (after pneumonia) and a leading cause of malnutrition. Although on average G20 countries have reasonably good coverage of water, disparities within countries persist. For example, in Canada more than half of all water systems on First Nation reserves pose a risk to those using them.³² Sanitation is a pressing need among several middle-income G20 countries. In India, only 40 percent of people have access to improved sanitation, however the Government of India recently launched “Swaccha Bhaarat Abhiyaan” (Clean India Campaign) to strengthen water and sanitation infrastructure across India in both schools and homes drawing on public-private partnerships to close the resource gap.

Electricity is vital for economic growth and also creates opportunities. Electricity provides heating, cooling, and lighting so students can learn. Electricity powers refrigeration for vaccines, sterilises and powers equipment, and provides light for procedures such as emergency childbirth in health facilities. Importantly businesses, households, hospitals and other premises need a reliable electricity supply. Most high-income G20 countries have 100 percent (or close to) coverage of electricity on average, but the UK, France and Canada top the rankings in terms of reliability. While Argentina, South Africa, India and Brazil rank last in terms of reliable access to electricity.



Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

INFRASTRUCTURE RANK																		
UK	Canada	France	Japan	Germany	Australia	US	Italy	Saudi Arabia	Republic of Korea	Turkey	Mexico	Argentina	Brazil	China	Russia	South Africa	India	Indonesia
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

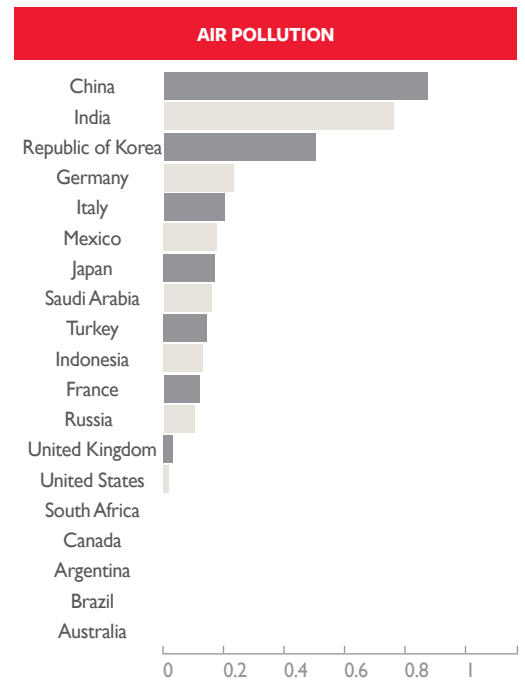
Environment

The environment dimension is measured by protected areas, air pollution and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per capita. The highest ranked countries (low air pollution and CO₂ emissions, and large protected areas) are Brazil, Germany and France. The lowest ranked are India, China and Republic of Korea. Australia, Russia, the US and Canada perform very poorly.

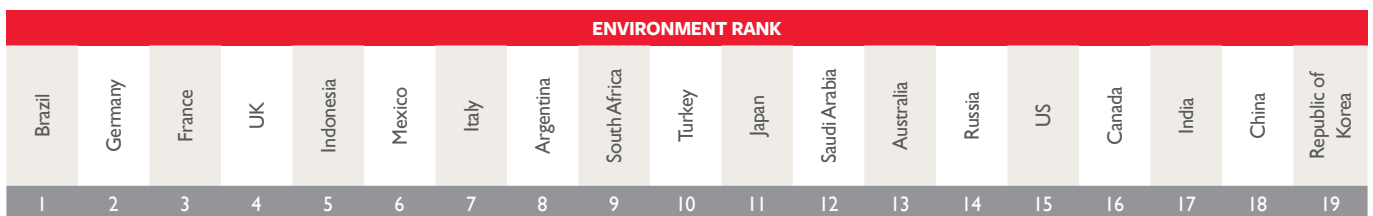
Ecosystems and biodiversity are important for their intrinsic value and also their critical link with human capital - natural systems provide the resources people need to survive and live healthy lives. Germany has by far the greatest percentage of protected areas (marine and land), and Turkey the least.

Air pollutants, particularly fine particles, can travel deep into the lungs and bloodstream causing lung and heart problems. Young children, pregnant women and elderly people are especially vulnerable. The adjacent chart shows that China has the highest average proportion of the population exposed to air pollution levels above World Health Organisation standards, and Australia the least.

Carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) is contributing to climate change with devastating impacts. Children are usually more vulnerable to these effects and, as stated by the IPCC (2014),³³ 'socially and geographically disadvantaged people exposed to persistent inequalities at the intersection of various dimensions of discrimination based on gender, age, race, class, caste, and disability are particularly negatively affected by climate change and climate-related hazards'. The major emitters of CO₂ (measured in metric tons) are China, the US, the EU and India, while in per capita emission within the G20 countries the major emitters are the US, Saudi Arabia, Australia and Canada – all high-income countries.



Average proportion of the population whose exposure to air pollution above World Health Organisation thresholds
Source: Yale University, Environmental Performance Index, 2016



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

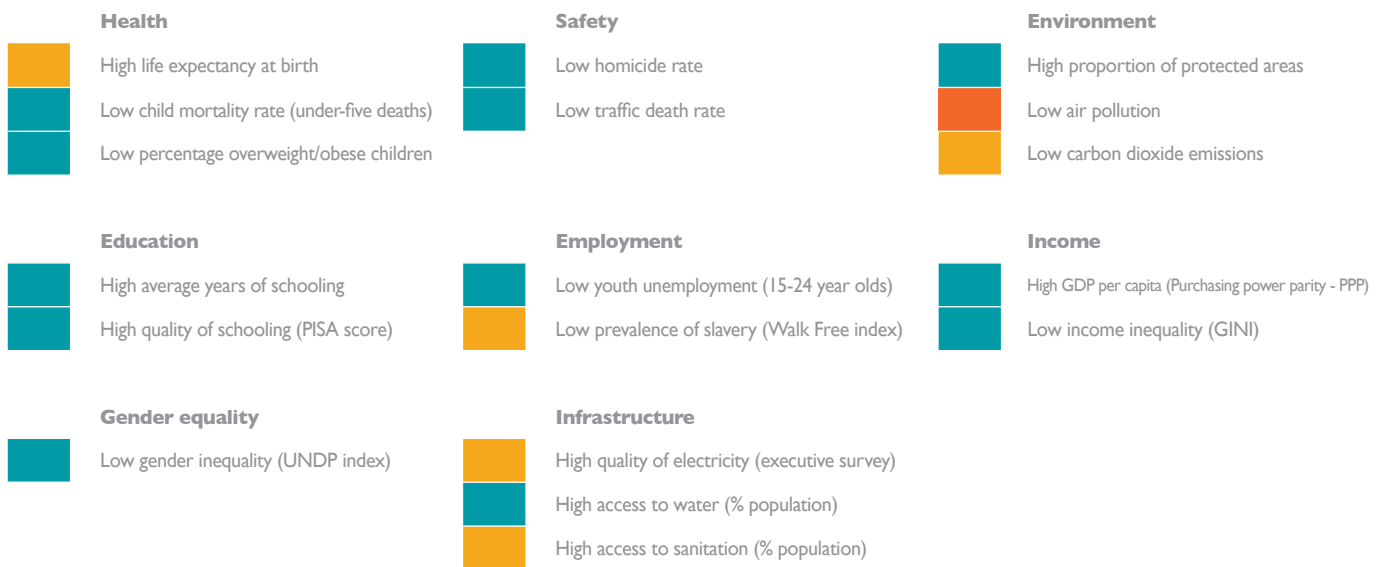
Germany #1



OVERALL RANK: 1

Population (millions)	81	Population aged 0-19	18%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	3,868
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):



Above average Average Below average

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

France #2



OVERALL RANK: 2

Population (millions)	66	Population aged 0-19	24%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	2,829
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Japan #3






OVERALL RANK: 3



Population (millions)	127	Population aged 0-19	17%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	4,601
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):




Health

-  High life expectancy at birth
-  Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths)
-  Low percentage overweight/obese children



Safety

-  Low homicide rate
-  Low traffic death rate



Environment

-  High proportion of protected areas
-  Low air pollution
-  Low carbon dioxide emissions



Education

-  High average years of schooling
-  High quality of schooling (PISA score)

Employment

-  Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds)
-  Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index)




Income

-  High GDP per capita (PPP)
-  Low income inequality (GINI)

Gender equality

-  Low gender inequality (UNDP index)

Infrastructure

-  High quality of electricity (executive survey)
-  High access to water (% population)
-  High access to sanitation (% population)

Above average  Average  Below average 

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Australia #4



OVERALL RANK: 4

Population (millions)	23	Population aged 0-19	25%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	1,455
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Canada #4



OVERALL RANK: 4

Population (millions)	36	Population aged 0-19	22%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	1,785
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

United Kingdom #6



Photo: Jack Taylor/Save the Children

OVERALL RANK: 6

Population (millions)	65	Population aged 0-19	24%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	2,989
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):

<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High life expectancy at birth Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths) Low percentage overweight/obese children 	<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low homicide rate Low traffic death rate 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High proportion of protected areas Low air pollution Low carbon dioxide emissions
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High average years of schooling High quality of schooling (PISA score) 	<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds) Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index) 	<p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High GDP per capita (PPP) Low income inequality (GINI)
<p>Gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low gender inequality (UNDP index) 	<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality of electricity (executive survey) High access to water (% population) High access to sanitation (% population) 	

Above average Average Below average

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Republic of Korea #7



Photo: Save the Children

OVERALL RANK: 7

Population (millions)	50	Population aged 0-19	20%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	1,410
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):



Above average ■ Average ■ Below average ■

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Italy #8

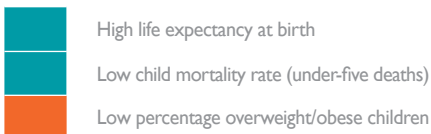


OVERALL RANK: 8

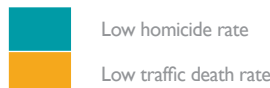
Population (millions)	61	Population aged 0-19	18%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	2,141
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):

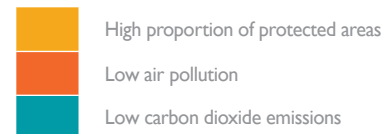
Health



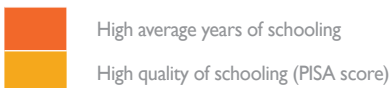
Safety



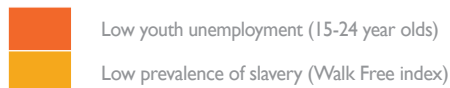
Environment



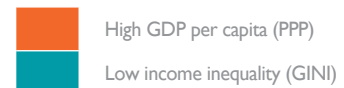
Education



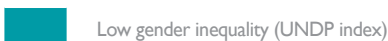
Employment



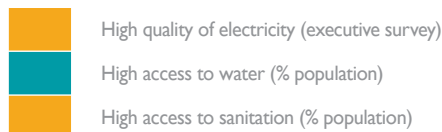
Income



Gender equality



Infrastructure



Above average  Average  Below average 

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

United States #9



OVERALL RANK: 9

Population (millions)	319	Population aged 0-19	26%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	17,419
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):

Health

- High life expectancy at birth
- Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths)
- Low percentage overweight/obese children

Safety

- Low homicide rate
- Low traffic death rate

Environment

- High proportion of protected areas
- Low air pollution
- Low carbon dioxide emissions

Education

- High average years of schooling
- High quality of schooling (PISA score)

Employment

- Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds)
- Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index)

Income

- High GDP per capita (PPP)
- Low income inequality (GINI)

Gender equality

- Low gender inequality (UNDP index)

Infrastructure

- High quality of electricity (executive survey)
- High access to water (% population)
- High access to sanitation (% population)

Above average ■ Average ■ Below average ■



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY

Turkey #10



OVERALL RANK: 10

Population (millions)	76	Population aged 0-19	35%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	798
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Performance relative to peer group (middle income countries as classified by World Bank):

Health

- High life expectancy at birth
- Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths)
- Low percentage overweight/obese children

Safety

- Low homicide rate
- Low traffic death rate

Environment

- High proportion of protected areas
- Low air pollution
- Low carbon dioxide emissions

Education

- High average years of schooling
- High quality of schooling (PISA score)

Employment

- Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds)
- Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index)

Income

- High GDP per capita (PPP)
- Low income inequality (GINI)

Gender equality

- Low gender inequality (UNDP index)

Infrastructure

- High quality of electricity (executive survey)
- High access to water (% population)
- High access to sanitation (% population)

Above average ■ Average ■ Below average ■



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY

China #11

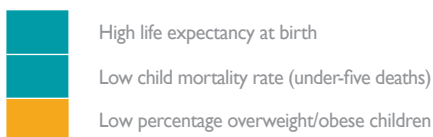


OVERALL RANK: 11

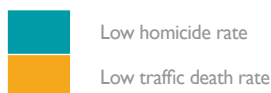
Population (millions)	1364	Population aged 0-19	23%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	10,355
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Performance relative to peer group (middle income countries as classified by World Bank):

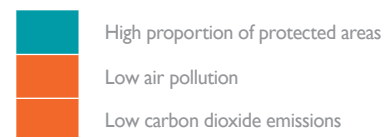
Health



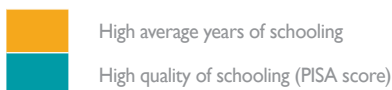
Safety



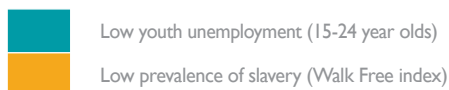
Environment



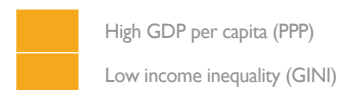
Education



Employment



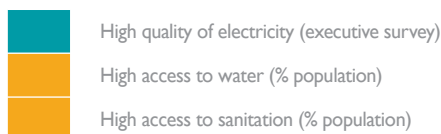
Income



Gender equality



Infrastructure



Above average Average Below average

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Russia #12



OVERALL RANK: 12

Population (millions)	144	Population aged 0-19	21%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	1,861
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):



Above average Average Below average

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Argentina #13



OVERALL RANK: 13

Population (millions)	43	Population aged 0-19	33%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	538
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):

Health

- High life expectancy at birth
- Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths)
- Low percentage overweight/obese children

Safety

- Low homicide rate
- Low traffic death rate

Environment

- High proportion of protected areas
- Low air pollution
- Low carbon dioxide emissions

Education

- High average years of schooling
- High quality of schooling (PISA score)

Employment

- Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds)
- Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index)

Income

- High GDP per capita (PPP)
- Low income inequality (GINI)

Gender equality

- Low gender inequality (UNDP index)

Infrastructure

- High quality of electricity (executive survey)
- High access to water (% population)
- High access to sanitation (% population)

Above average ■ Average ■ Below average ■



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY

Mexico #14



Photo: Jonathan Hyams/Save the Children

OVERALL RANK: 14

Population (millions)	125	Population aged 0-19	37%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	1,295
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Performance relative to peer group (middle income countries as classified by World Bank):

<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High life expectancy at birth Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths) Low percentage overweight/obese children 	<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low homicide rate Low traffic death rate 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High proportion of protected areas Low air pollution Low carbon dioxide emissions
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High average years of schooling High quality of schooling (PISA score) 	<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds) Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index) 	<p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High GDP per capita (PPP) Low income inequality (GINI)
<p>Gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low gender inequality (UNDP index) 	<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality of electricity (executive survey) High access to water (% population) High access to sanitation (% population) 	

Above average ■ Average ■ Below average ■

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

Saudi Arabia #15






OVERALL RANK: 15



Population (millions)	31	Population aged 0-19	37%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	746
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):




Health

-  High life expectancy at birth
-  Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths)
-  Low percentage overweight/obese children



Safety

-  Low homicide rate
-  Low traffic death rate



Environment

-  High proportion of protected areas
-  Low air pollution
-  Low carbon dioxide emissions



Education

-  High average years of schooling
- na  High quality of schooling (PISA score)

Employment

-  Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds)
-  Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index)




Income

-  High GDP per capita (PPP)
-  Low income inequality (GINI)

Gender equality

-  Low gender inequality (UNDP index)

Infrastructure

-  High quality of electricity (executive survey)
-  High access to water (% population)
-  High access to sanitation (% population)

Above average  Average  Below average 



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY

Indonesia #16



Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

OVERALL RANK: 16

Population (millions)	254	Population aged 0-19	37%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	889
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Performance relative to peer group (high income countries as classified by World Bank):

<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High life expectancy at birth Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths) Low percentage overweight/obese children 	<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low homicide rate Low traffic death rate 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High proportion of protected areas Low air pollution Low carbon dioxide emissions
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High average years of schooling High quality of schooling (PISA score) 	<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds) Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index) 	<p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High GDP per capita (PPP) Low income inequality (GINI)
<p>Gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low gender inequality (UNDP index) 	<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality of electricity (executive survey) High access to water (% population) High access to sanitation (% population) 	

Above average Average Below average

COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY

Brazil #17



Photo: Genna Naccache/Save the Children

OVERALL RANK: 17

Population (millions)	206	Population aged 0-19	32%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	2,346
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Performance relative to peer group (middle income countries as classified by World Bank):



Above average ■ Average ■ Below average ■



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY

South Africa #18



Photo: Tom Pilston/Save the Children

OVERALL RANK: 18

Population (millions)	54	Population aged 0-19	39%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	350
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Performance relative to peer group (middle income countries as classified by World Bank):

<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High life expectancy at birth Low child mortality rate (under-five deaths) Low percentage overweight/obese children 	<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low homicide rate Low traffic death rate 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High proportion of protected areas Low air pollution Low carbon dioxide emissions
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High average years of schooling n/a High quality of schooling (PISA score) 	<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low youth unemployment (15-24 year olds) Low prevalence of slavery (Walk Free index) 	<p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High GDP per capita (PPP) Low income inequality (GINI)
<p>Gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low gender inequality (UNDP index) 	<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality of electricity (executive survey) High access to water (% population) High access to sanitation (% population) 	

Above average Average Below average n/a = no data available



COUNTRY REPORT CARDS – MIDDLE INCOME ECONOMY

India #19

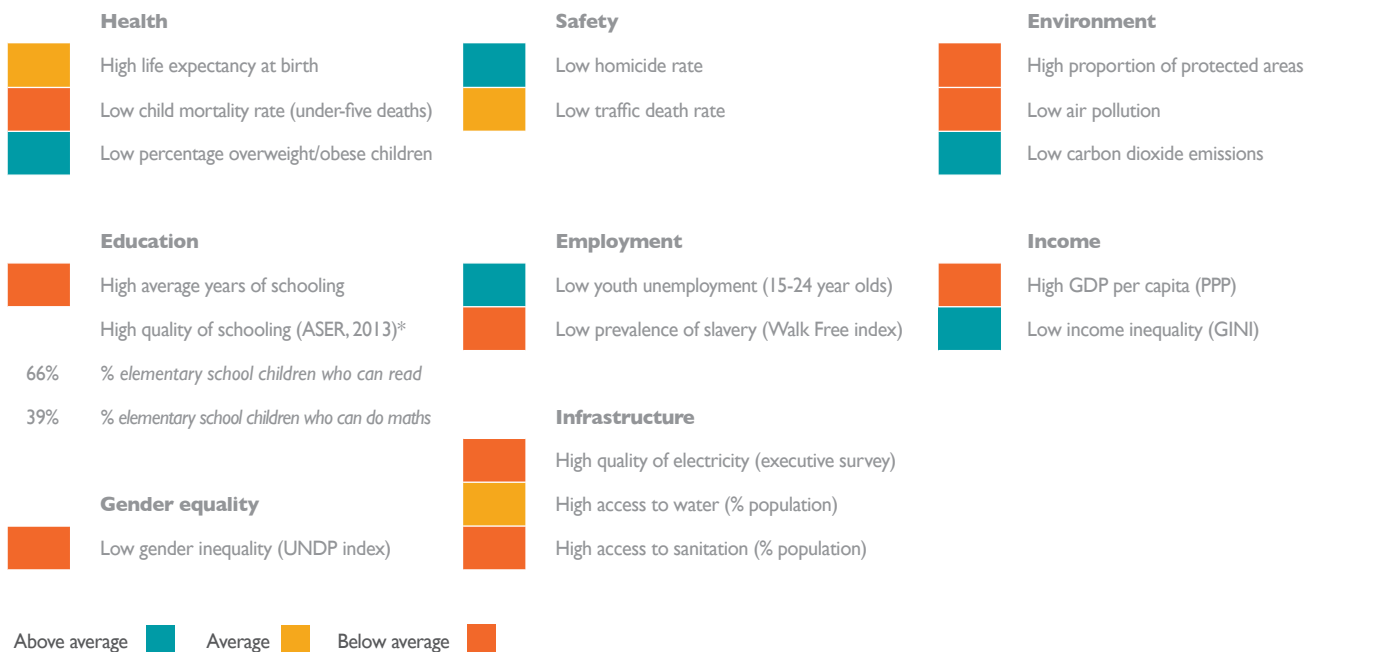


Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

OVERALL RANK: 19

Population (millions)	1,295	Population aged 0-19	39%	GDP (\$US billion, 2014)	2,049
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Performance relative to peer group (middle income countries as classified by World Bank):



*Annual Status of Education (Rural) Report, Provisional January 2014. Results not directly comparable with OECD PISA and provided for information only.

ANNEX - METHODOLOGY

Comparing a child's life chances across G20 nations is a challenging but worthwhile exercise. Although the G20 nations are the world's largest economies, they are at different stages of development. Yet, all are united in collective action for strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

In constructing the index and country report cards, we adopted the following principles:

- Simple in design, intuitive and easy to communicate.
- Supports Save the Children's policy and advocacy to ensure every last child survives, learns and is protected.
- Selected indicators have high coverage across all G20 countries.
- Analysis is based on internationally comparable and publicly available data.
- Findings highlight relative performance among G20 nations.

Selection of Indicators

We have defined eight dimensions we consider important for the lives of children (health, education, income, safety, employment, gender equality, infrastructure and the environment). Based on extensive research of measurement of child wellbeing, social progress and sustainable development; data availability and comparability across G20 countries (spanning high-income and developing countries); as well as the experience of Save the Children worldwide working with civil society and government on realising child rights, we have selected the best available proxy indicators for these dimensions.

Measurement of outcomes for children and young people is far from comprehensive. Internationally comparable data is limited. In some cases, we use indicators that reflect the general context, but are still important for children and their families (e.g. safety). In selecting the best available indicators, we focussed on:

- Outcomes rather than inputs (e.g. internationally comparable examination results rather than spending on education)
- Indicators used by other researchers (e.g. air quality)
- Measures that show variation amongst middle and high-income countries (e.g. childhood obesity).
- Internationally comparable data (e.g. homicide rates).
- Standards set by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child³⁴ and the Sustainable Development Goals.³⁵

All the indicators are sourced from international comparable data. Unfortunately, a limitation of internationally comparable data is that there is a delay in the availability, sometimes in the order of a number of years. As such there may be more recent nationally available data but we did not rely on this because it is important to make sure that the data is comparable across countries and consistent definitions are used. In a few limited cases it was necessary to fill in missing data based on judgement and secondary sources.³⁶

Comparing the quality of education across countries is very challenging and limited data is available. We rely on using the OECD 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) scores as a crude measure of quality of education. PISA scores only provide a very limited insight into variation in education across countries and not all countries in the G20 even participate. However, PISA scores were still included so that the education dimension could move beyond just relying on internationally comparable data about the amount of education that students receive.

Ranking procedure

The ranking method draws upon the work of UNICEF's Office of Research: *Measuring Child Wellbeing in Rich Countries*.³⁷

The overall country rankings are built up by assigning a rank for each of the eight dimensions (health, education, income, safety, employment, gender equality, infrastructure and the environment) and then taking a weighted average.

Among our eight dimensions we consider health, education and gender equality to be most important. These dimensions are assigned twice the weight of the remaining dimensions. This reflects our focus on ensuring children survive, learn and are protected. The indicators for the health and education dimensions directly measure outcomes for children, whilst other dimensions look at the general environment for children. We consider gender equality critically important for girl and boy children to access opportunities. Similarly, greater levels of gender equality has been shown to be very important for children welfare and improvements in women's education and health have been linked to better outcomes for their children in many countries.³⁸

To compare relative performance among G20 countries we have adopted a common scale using 'z scores'. This process is also known as normalisation. The upper and lower limits of the scale are defined by all countries in the group. The scaling system reveals how far a country is falling above or below the average for the group as a whole. More specifically, a z score indicates the distance of each observation from the mean (average) by the number of standard deviations (average deviation from the average). This method accords a higher (or lower) score to those countries that significantly exceed (or fall well below) the average for the G20.

For the index, we take each dimension and then compute the z score for each indicator. We then take the average of the z scores across the indicators and rank the average z scores from lowest to highest to indicate the country rank for each dimension. The overall country rank is a weighted average of the rank scores for each dimension.

For the report cards, the countries were split into either a high income or middle-income group. Z scores were then computed separately for countries in the 1) high income group and 2) middle-income group to allow comparisons within peer groups. A country with an observation more than half a standard deviation above the group average was rated 'above average', more than half a standard deviation below the group average rated 'below average', or otherwise rated 'average' compared to its peers. It is important to note that in 2015 Argentina became a high-income country, whereas it was a middle-income country when the first Economic Playgrounds report was produced in 2014. All other G20 countries have remained in the same income categories, as they were when the first report was produced.

Case Study selection

The case studies were selected based upon three main criteria. The first was given the G20 is being held in the East Asia and Pacific region it was decided to select countries from the region. The second was that the countries would be at different stages of development (i.e. Indonesia is a lower middle-income country, China is an upper middle-income country and Australia is a high-income country). Finally, there had to be adequate data available about education of different groups within these countries.



INDICATORS

DIMENSION	INDICATOR	SOURCE
Health	Life expectancy at birth	Life expectancy at birth (years) World Bank, World Development Indicators http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN
Health	Child mortality rate	Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) World Bank, World Development Indicators http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT
Health	Percentage overweight/obese children	Overweight and obesity prevalence (Body Mass Index ≥ 25) for children (2-19). University of Washington, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation http://vizhub.healthdata.org/obesity
Education	Years of schooling	Average number of years of education received by people aged 25 and older. UNDP Human Development Index 2015, Table I http://hdr.undp.org/en/data
Education	PISA Scores	Average of maths, reading and science scores under the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment test results for 15-year-old students. ³⁹ http://www.oecd.org/pisa/keyfindings/pisa-2012-results.htm
Gender equality	Gender inequality index	Gender Inequality Index – A composite index across three dimensions: reproductive health (maternal mortality ratio, adolescent fertility rate), empowerment (share of seats in parliament, secondary education) and labour market participation. UNDP Human Development Report, 2015 http://hdr.undp.org/en/data
Income	Income per capita	GDP per capita (Purchasing power parity - PPP, Current) IMF World Economic Outlook 2016 Database http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2014/01/weodata/index.aspx
Income	Income inequality	GINI – Measures the extent to which the distribution of income deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A GINI coefficient of 0 represents perfect equality (every person has the same income), while an index of 1 implies perfect inequality (one person has all income). OECD countries: OECD, StatExtracts http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=IDD (GINI, disposable income post taxes and transfers) Other countries: ⁴⁰ World Bank, World Development Indicators http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI
Employment	Youth unemployment	Youth unemployment (% of total labour force ages 15-24) National estimates where available, otherwise International Labour Organisation (ILO) modelled estimate. World Bank, World Development Indicators http://databank.worldbank.org/data/views/variableSelection/selectvariables.aspx?source=world-development-indicators
Employment	Slavery index	A combined measure of three variables: estimated prevalence of modern slavery in each country (accounting for 95% of the total); a measure of the level of human trafficking to and from each country (accounts for 2.5%); and a measure of the level of child and early marriage in each country (accounts for 2.5%), scaled from 1 (low slavery) to 100 (high slavery). Walk Free Foundation, Global Slavery Index http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/findings/#rankings



INDICATORS

DIMENSION	INDICATOR	SOURCE
Safety	Homicide rate	Unlawful death purposefully inflicted on a person by another person. Homicide rate per 100,000 population http://www.unodc.org/gsh/en/data.html
Safety	Traffic deaths	Estimated road traffic death rate (per 100,000 population) World Health Organization, Global Health Data Repository http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A997?lang=en
Infrastructure	Access to water & sanitation	Access to improved water source (% population). That is, the percentage of the population that can access at least 20 litres of water per day from an improved source within 1 km. Improved sources are: household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected well or spring, rainwater collection. Access to adequate sanitation (% population). That is, the percentage of the population with access to correctly constructed and well maintained excreta disposal facilities that can prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta. Improved facilities include protected pit latrines and flush toilets. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation http://www.wssinfo.org/data-estimates/tables
Infrastructure	Quality of electricity	World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey ⁴¹ In your country, how would you assess the reliability of the electricity supply (lack of interruptions and lack of voltage fluctuations)? [1 = not reliable at all; 7 = extremely reliable] World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Report 2015-16 http://www3.weforum.org/docs/gcr/2015-2016/Global_Competitiveness_Report_2015-2016.pdf
Environment	Protected areas	Terrestrial and marine protected areas (% of total territorial area). World Bank, World Development Indicators http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.PTD.TOTL.ZS
Environment	Air pollution	Average proportion of the population whose exposure to PM _{2.5} ⁴² is above the World Health Organization thresholds http://epi.yale.edu/downloads (Air Quality Raw Data File)
Environment	Carbon dioxide emissions	CO ₂ emissions (metric tons per capita) World Bank, World Development Indicators http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC

All data accessed in March 2016. Most data are for the year 2014 (otherwise, latest available)

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42. PM2.5, also known as fine particulate matter, refers to particles or droplets in the air that are 2.5 microns or less in width. Although it is invisible to the naked human eye as individual particles, PM2.5 can reduce visibility and cause the air to appear hazy when PM2.5 levels are elevated.



Front cover photo: Grade Three students at a primary school in Indonesia. Teachers at the school were trained as part of Save the Children's Literacy Boost program. Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children

This page: A child learns in Bangladesh. Photo: Rob McKechnie/Save the Children



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