

Indicators

Table 2 shows the indicators included in the country profiles, by category: the indicator name, the rationale for including the indicator, the definition of the indicator and the data source.

Table 2: Indicators: Name, definition, rationale and source of the data

Demographics			
Indicator	Rationale	Definition	Data source
Total population (millions)	The population size of the country	Total population (2024)	United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition
Total under-five population (millions)	The number of children under 5 years of age, and children under 5 as a proportion of the total population	Total population of children under 5 years (2024)	United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition
Annual births	The number of children born each year in the country	Annual number of births (2024)	United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition
Under-five mortality	The number of children under 5 years of age dying each year, per 1,000 live births	Probability of dying between birth and 5 years of age per 1,000 live births (2023)	United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), 2025.

Threats to early childhood development			
Indicator	Rationale	Definition	Data source
Child poverty	Poverty is one of the major threats to the survival, health and well- being of young children and is shown to affect all aspects of development	The World Bank definition of extreme poverty in 2017, living on less than US\$1.90 per day, was used to generate a composite indicator for children under 5 exposed to stunting or extreme poverty. Poverty ratios of children under 5 were derived for a subset of countries using the World Bank’s poverty estimates and its nationally representative population surveys with wealth index (2006-2015)	World Bank, DHS, MICS, China Family Panel Survey, China Health and Nutrition Survey. Methods are the same as in: Lu, C., M.M. Black and L.M. Richter, ‘Risk of Poor Development In Young Children in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries: An estimation and analysis at the global, regional, and country level’. <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> , vol. 4, no. 12, 2016, pp. E916-E922
Under-five stunting	Stunting among young children is associated with poor short- and longterm effects on school performance and adult earnings	Percentage of children aged 0-59 months with height for age below minus two standard deviations from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards (2024)	UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, Country Estimates, March 2025. Stunting estimates used in generating the composite indicator of risk exposure in 2015 were imputed from the existing data using the same methods as in Lu et al., 2016 (cited above)
Low birthweight	Low birthweight is an indicator of poor antenatal development and a predictor of poor childhood development in the early years	Percentage of infants weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth (2020)	UNICEF/WHO Low Birthweight Estimates, 2023 Edition