



END CHILD
POVERTY
GLOBAL COALITION



Voluntary National Reviews for the Sustainable Development Goals:
**ARE COUNTRIES COMMITTED TO ENDING
CHILD POVERTY BY 2030?**

A review of VNR reports from 2017 to 2020

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Are countries committed to ending child poverty by 2030?

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ending poverty in all its forms for everyone, including for children, is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted five years ago by the global community. The SDG Agenda provides a clear framework for action: Countries must eradicate extreme child poverty by 2030 as internationally defined (PPP \$1.90) and halve the number of children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. The first step towards ensuring these targets are met is to set the baseline on child poverty, followed by policy and programmatic actions to reduce it. As we enter the [Decade of Action](#) this year, time has come to accelerate our efforts to achieve this ambitious and critical goal.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, 385 million children¹ globally were barely surviving on less than \$1.90 PPP a day. According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index, over 644 million children were living in multidimensionally poor households,² deprived of education, health, housing, nutrition, proper sanitation, or clean water. Children everywhere are disproportionately affected by poverty - they are twice as likely to be poor than adults, with devastating impacts. The economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to push millions more into poverty: According to recent Save the Children/UNICEF analysis, a projected 117 million additional children will be pushed into monetary poverty³, threatening to reverse important gains made in the past years. The number of children living in multidimensional poverty could also soar by 150 million, bringing the total

number of multidimensionally poor children to 1.2 billion⁴. In addition, the pandemic is exacerbating existing patterns of inequalities between groups in society. Now more than ever, governments must take concerted actions to prevent this pandemic from turning into a child poverty crisis, through strengthening social protection systems and public services.

The [Global Coalition to End Child Poverty](#), a 20+ member partnership, works to support national processes to achieve the SDG Goal of ending child poverty. A key Coalition publication, [A World Free from Child Poverty \(SDG Guide\)](#), sets out a practical agenda for mobilizing action nationally, regionally and globally - to end child poverty. This includes supporting countries in routinely measuring monetary and multidimensional child poverty and addressing it through policies, programmes and budgets.

To monitor and assess their progress on the SDGs, each year, a select number of countries present their [Voluntary National Reviews](#) to the UN [High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#). This process enables these countries to take stock of their achievements and challenges, share lessons learned and identify actions to accelerate the 2030 Agenda implementation. The VNRs are important as they are a key tool for accountability for the SDGs, both at the national and global level - they are the main mechanism for tracking progress on the SDGs at the national level and reporting on it at the global level. Among the principles guiding the reviews are that they must be substantive, and knowledge based, with a particular

1 https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending_Extreme_Poverty_A_Focus_on_Children_Oct_2016.pdf

2 http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2020_mpi_report_en.pdf

3 <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/blogs/2020/coronavirus-invisible-victims-children-in-monetary-poor-househol>

4 <https://data.unicef.org/resources/impact-of-covid-19-on-multidimensional-child-poverty/>



focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized and those furthest behind. To date, over 150 countries have presented their VNRs at the UN, with some countries having presented their VNR two or more times.

One way to gauge progress on SDG implementation is to survey the data and the narrative content that countries present in their VNRs. This Coalition brief is the second

annual analysis of the VNRs from a child poverty perspective, looking at how countries mention and discuss their efforts to end child poverty, through measurement and policies. Our assessment complements a number of other systematic efforts to assess VNRs, through providing SDG1 specific analysis. This analysis builds upon last year's brief⁵ developed by the Coalition, which reviewed VNRs from 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The findings presented in this brief are only based on VNR analysis. There are countries measuring child poverty and/or that have in place policies and programmes to address child poverty, but have not reflected this in their VNRs, and consequently these efforts are not reflected in this brief. As the scope of the analysis is the VNRs, it only provides information on stated policy positions and priorities. This brief does not constitute an evaluation or an assessment of these policies or priorities.

2. WHAT DO THE VNRS REVEAL?

At the 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), as countries concluded one third of the journey on achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 47 countries carried out VNRs of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶. Responding to the call from UN Secretary General on mobilizing resources from all sectors for actions over the next decade, the theme this year was “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.” In light of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, this year's theme included all 17 Goals in the review process.

The number of countries discussing policies and programme to reduce child poverty in their VNRs has increased considerably in 2020, compared to 2019.

Among the 45 VNRs, 11 reported on monetary child poverty rate, 9 on multidimensional child poverty rate, and 33 outlined efforts to address it through policies, programmes and budgets.

⁵ <http://www.endchildhoodpoverty.org/publications-feed/2019/10/15/briefing-paper>

⁶ Only 45 reviews are available online. The analysis doesn't include Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados.

The reports capture child poverty in a diverse way, through acknowledging children as a group particularly vulnerable to poverty, highlighting policies addressing child poverty or incorporating child poverty into national development frameworks and strategies. Additionally, the reports highlighted the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and measures put in place to respond to the health and socio-economic impacts. However, children living in

poverty received limited attention in these COVID-19 discussions.

If we use Voluntary National Reviews as a measurement for countries' commitment to address child poverty, it is fair to conclude that progress is being made. However, there are still large gaps for achieving the 2030 Agenda - and the number of countries providing monetary and multidimensional child poverty estimates, an SDG requirement, are far too few.

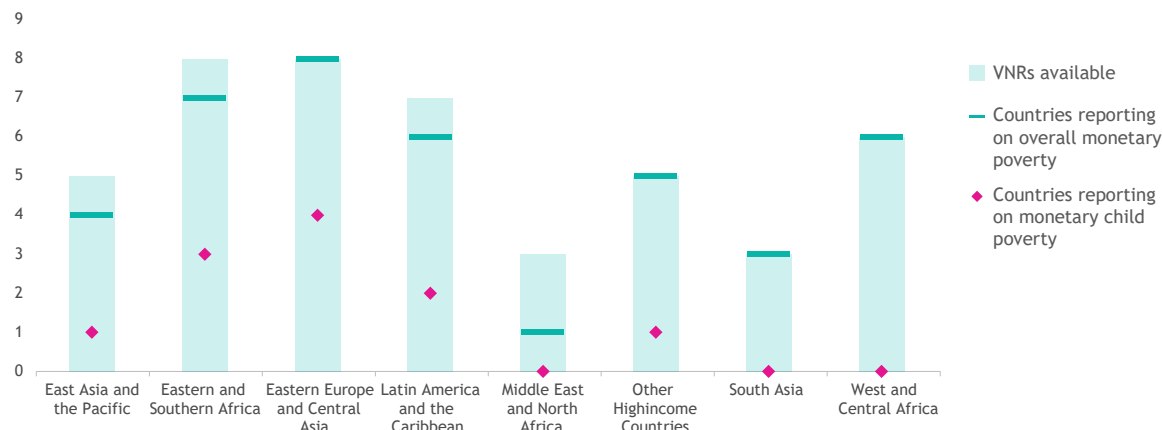
3. COUNTRIES REPORTING ON MONETARY CHILD POVERTY

The very first step to address the challenges faced by children in poverty starts with accurate and consistent measurement of monetary child poverty. SDG indicator 1.2.1 specifies the reporting of the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, and this should be disaggregated not only by sex or regions, but also by age, recognizing children as a distinct category.

This year, while all 45 reviews discussed poverty eradication, the number of countries that reported on monetary child poverty is surprisingly low. Only 11 out of 45 reviews explicitly point out the monetary poverty rate for children, compared to 17 out of 46 last year. Monetary child poverty is presented through different age groupings, using either national or international criteria, such as absolute poverty line, relative poverty line, extreme poverty line and at risk of poverty.

Figure 1

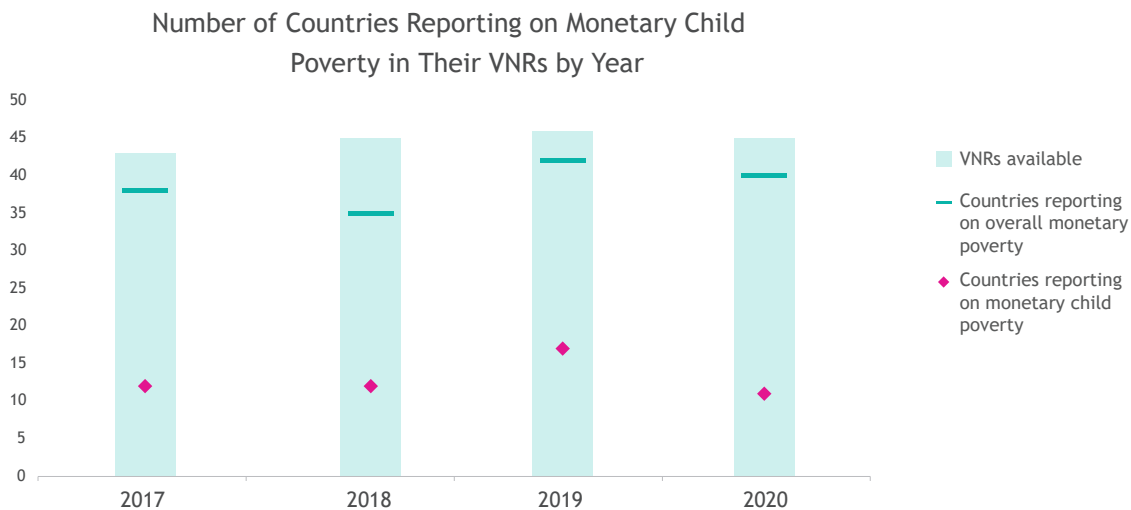
Number of Countries Reporting on Monetary Child Poverty in Their VNRs by Region



Among the countries mentioning their monetary child poverty rate, many outlined their efforts to strengthen **data collection approaches** and mechanisms for monitoring child poverty. Specifically:

- **North Macedonia** has adopted the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey annually since 2010 and established a persistent track of statistics on poverty rate disaggregated by children, youth and adults every year.
- **Burundi** highlighted an integrated survey on household living conditions (EICVMB), which will serve as basis for a new study to update the profile of child poverty in 2021.
- In addition to noting the percentage of children at risk of poverty, **Finland** disaggregated this data for different child age groups, ranging from age 4 to 7, 8 to 11, and 12 to 15. Considering challenges on inequality and exclusion, they also disaggregated the child poverty rate between Finnish and non-Finnish citizens.
- **Kenya** initiated surveys to enhance availability of disaggregated data to the lowest geographical unit possible, complementing their Population and Housing Census. Strengthened data collection tools were designed in this process, such as the use of small area estimation (SAE) in poverty measurement, and collaboration with UNICEF to provide data on poverty for children.

Figure 2



It is worth noting that instead of pointing out the specific monetary child poverty rate, some countries tracked the child poverty trend through other approaches. For instance, Slovenia noted the continuously

declining relative median at-risk-of poverty gap of children and young people up to 17 years old in the past five years. Russia and Uzbekistan addressed the proportion of poor or low-income households with children,

and Estonia set a goal to reduce certain percentage points off their child poverty rate².

Yet, despite these positive examples, the reporting this year revealed serious gaps in countries monitoring monetary child poverty,

an SDG requirement. Even five years into the implementation of the Agenda 2030, only around third of the countries are reporting on their baseline and progress on child poverty targets, and fewer countries reported on monetary child poverty in 2020 compared to earlier years (figure 2).

4. COUNTRIES REPORTING ON MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY

Poverty is multifaceted and cannot be captured properly through income and consumption measures alone. To assess the true extent of the multiple and overlapping deprivations people face in their daily lives, affecting, for example, their health, education and living standards, an increasing number of countries are measuring poverty multidimensionally, responding to the call of SDG 1.2.2 to “reduce at least by half the

proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions”.

Of the 45 countries who submitted their voluntary national reviews in 2020, 9 countries reported multidimensional poverty data on children, using methodologies such as Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA).

Figure 3

Number of Countries Reporting on Multidimensional Child Poverty in Their VNRs by Region

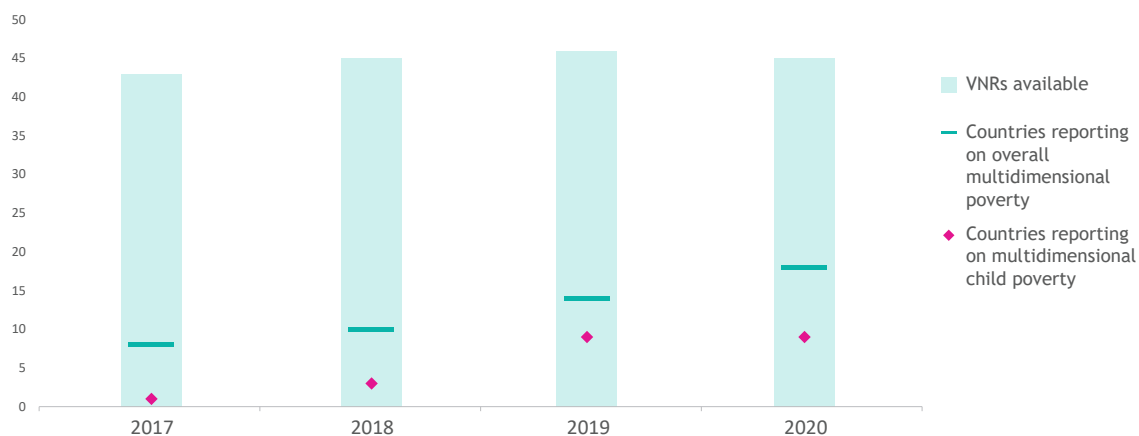


Some of the good practices of reporting on multidimensional child poverty include:

- A national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for **Bangladesh** was constructed based on the collaboration between the General Economics Division of Bangladesh Planning Commission and UNICEF. In the VNR, Bangladesh provided MPI data disaggregated by 6 age groups, including 2 for children ages 0 to 9 and 10 to 17. They highlighted in their report that children are particularly vulnerable group affected by multidimensional poverty and utilized the data to inform policies for children.
- In the **Kyrgyz Republic**, to monitor progress towards SDG targets on reducing the proportion of children living in poverty in all its dimensions, a National Multidimensional Poverty Index was developed, covering five dimensions of well-being: monetary poverty, education, health, food security and housing conditions. The index provides estimation on children living in multidimensionally poor households.
- Analyzing multidimensional poverty data, **Liberia**, with support from UNICEF and UNDP, identified the severe deprivation challenges that children face, including stunting, healthcare, water and sanitation, and their long-term impacts on children. Based on the data, Liberia highlighted its determination to launch comprehensive and nationwide social protection measures to address child poverty in all its dimensions.
- With support from UNICEF, **Malawi** initiated in 2019 a multidimensional child poverty assessments. The analysis follows a life-cycle approach and is disaggregated by geographic location and deprivation threshold. The data enabled Malawi to formulate policies targeting the poorest children, such as the new National Social Protection Program which expands cash transfers, and a Unified Beneficiary Register.
- **Slovenia** established a children’s well-being index through a partnership between the Social Protection Institute and UNICEF in 2017, aiming to answer two specific questions: how to measure complex social phenomena such as children’s well-being and quality of life, and how to best transform the findings into positive impacts through public policies.

Figure 4

Number of Countries Reporting on Multidimensional Child Poverty in Their VNRs by Year



However, as with monetary child poverty estimates, these best practices on measuring multidimensional child poverty are few and far between, and the very low number of countries tracking multidimensional child poverty rates remains a concern. Though a

slight increase in the number of countries reporting multidimensional poverty between 2019 and 2020, a significant push is needed to get all countries to measure and report on their multidimensional child poverty baselines and targets (figure 4).

5. COUNTRIES REPORTING ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ADDRESSING CHILD POVERTY

Turning the SDG promise in to real results for children requires significant national attention, comprehensive national policies and programmes, with accompanying actions plans and budgets for implementation. SDG target 1.3 recognizes the importance of social protection systems and floors in reducing poverty for everyone, including children, and target 1.4 highlights the importance of improved access of the poor to essential public services.

This year, among the 45 countries who submitted their VNRs, 33 mentioned their efforts to tackle child poverty through various policy and sector-specific actions. The measures are broadly divided into the following categories: Building and expanding child-sensitive social protection systems, improving access, quality and utilization of public services by the poorest, and prioritizing child poverty in national development plans and strategies.

Building and expanding child-sensitive social protection systems

National social protection schemes, when targeted at children and their caregivers, enable families to protect their children from poverty and other deprivations they face throughout their life course. Positively, among the most common country-level responses to child poverty highlighted in the VNRs was

the building and expansion of child sensitive social protection systems - in particular, the expansion of cash transfers targeted towards poor and vulnerable families with children, for example:

- **Argentina** highlighted its three-tier system that provides social protection coverage to children and adolescents: 1) contributory subsystem 2) non-contributory subsystem (mainly Universal Child Allowance-AUH), and 3) income tax deduction.
- **Estonia** increased the benefit amount of the universal child allowance and allowance for children with disabilities, both of which make substantial contributions to reducing child poverty levels. The government also adopted a new programme that targets large families, as households with many children were at higher risk of poverty according to data. The programme provides 1,000 Euros per month for families with three or more children.
- **In Liberia**, the main social protection programmes targeting children living in poverty are the Liberia Social Safety Net project (LSSN) and the School Meals programs. Building on the LSSN programme design and administration, the government is working to expand the social protection coverage, aiming to cover 200,000 households in six target counties.



- **Malawi** highlighted the nationwide expansion of its social cash transfer programme - which was implemented as part of the rollout of the new National Social Protection Programme (MNSSP II) in 2018. Another notable measure taken by the country is the adoption of the Unified Beneficiary Register, which helped increase the number of children in households receiving cash assistance from 431,700 in 2018 to 622,323 in 2019.
- **North Macedonia** also noted similar measures. To address child poverty the government has expanded the access to the existing child benefit programme, removing the requirement that one parent should be employed and further enrolling low income families. This helped triple the number of recipients. In addition, North Macedonia initiated social protection system reforms in 2019, by adopting the *Law on Social Protection* and amending the *Law on Child Protection*, which introduced the “educational children cash allowance” for children from low-income households enrolled in primary and secondary education. With support from the UN, the government is also adopting a case management approach, to enhance the synergies between social protection and welfare services to accelerate poverty reduction efforts.
- **Uzbekistan** emphasized its flagship programmes for low-income families, which consist of childcare allowance for families with at least one child under the age of two; child allowance for families with at least one child between the ages of two and thirteen; and financial assistance to other households facing special difficulties due to disability, old age or other problems. The Uzbek VNR further mentions the need to improve effectiveness and efficiency of existing measures to address child poverty, by

developing a unified social register to address the inclusion/exclusion errors and combining various benefits into a single programme for low-income families.

In addition to social assistance measures, a number of countries emphasized the labor market policies they adopted, to support families and children living in and vulnerable to poverty. For instance:

- **In Russia**, along with a targeted support for lower-income families with children, the government also promotes employment for women with childcare responsibilities.
- **Slovenia** noted similar interventions - to reduce the rates of those at risk of social exclusion, the government re-introduced full salary compensation during parental leave and increased the financial assistance provided upon the birth of a child. Slovenia also provides food subsidies in educational institutions for children from socially disadvantaged families.

It is well established that social protection programs are among the most effective policy tools in addressing child poverty. However, 18 countries did not mention social protection in their VNRs as a key approach towards ending poverty for every child, indicating a gap in the policy response to protect poor and marginalized children.

Improving access, quality and utilization of public services by the poorest

Child poverty is multidimensional, and a variety of public services are crucial to support children’s survival, development and growth. In addition to social assistance measures, a number of countries noted the policies and programmes they implemented to strengthen access to education, health and other services.

- **In Bulgaria**, the Ministry of Education and Science launched the “Active inclusion in the pre-school system” project in mid-2019, aiming to broaden access to pre-school education for children from vulnerable groups and those living in poverty. The government also made amendments to the Law on Family Allowances for Children and started providing non means-tested benefits for children who do not get a survivor’s pension from a deceased parent.
 - **Ecuador** highlighted two programmes promoting early childhood development, Children’s Centers of Good Living (CIBV) and the Growing with Our Children (CNH). Around 60-65% of program beneficiaries are children from the lowest two income quintiles. In addition to pro-poor social services, Ecuador also provides vouchers for children and adolescents in orphan status.
 - **In Kenya**, free primary school education and subsidized secondary school initiatives, as well as the expansion of Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) are mentioned among the key interventions that target the most vulnerable populations, including children.
 - **Ukraine’s** VNR noted the need to “introduce a differentiated approach in order to enhance accessibility of free or partially free services to vulnerable populations, first of all from among children” as a key strategy to accelerate progress on SDG 1.
- reduction strategy, demonstrates high level political commitment at the national level, laying the groundwork for increased and more coordinated actions to combat child poverty, and funding to ensure implementation. Such an approach implicitly recognizes the long-term impacts on both children and society that the failure to deal with child poverty creates. Among the countries who noted overall frameworks to address child poverty include:
- **Bangladesh** adopted a National Social Security Strategy in 2015 to address the triple challenge of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization by coordinating and consolidating the existing safety net programmes for better efficiency and results. The strategy adopts a life cycle approach looking at the particular needs people have over their entire life, benefitting mother and child, youth, vulnerable working age populations, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
 - **Austria** will launch a National Action Plan on Poverty Prevention in 2020, placing special emphasis on combating poverty among children, women and older persons. The country also aims to further develop a sustainable health-care system to ensure access to services and address social exclusion. Austria also noted its minimum income benefit scheme, which reaches 2.5% of the population as of 2018.
 - **Honduras**, guided by a strategy called the Better Life Management Platform (EVM), implements cross sectoral interventions to address poverty and vulnerabilities experienced by children. EVM covers the Better Life Bonus (Conditional Cash Transfer) scheme, School Feeding Program, Solidarity Food Program for vulnerable populations, Healthy Housing Program, Opportunity Generation Program, Care System Comprehensive Early Childhood

Prioritizing child poverty in national development plans and strategies

Including child poverty in key development frameworks of the country, such as in a national development plan or a poverty

“Raising with Love”, Better Families Program, and Family Guides. The programmes under EVM are supported by the Solidarity and Social Protection Fund for the Reduction of Extreme Poverty, created under a Legislative Decree.

Despite the increase in the number of countries that discussed child poverty policies and programmes in their VNRs, coordinated and comprehensive national plans to reduce child poverty were largely absent in all but five countries.

6. COVID-19 AND CHILD POVERTY

The economic crisis generated by COVID-19 threatens to hit children and families the hardest. An additional [117 million children](#) may fall into monetary poverty this year as a result of the pandemic. The number of children living in multidimensional poverty - without access to education, health, housing, nutrition, sanitation, or water - may soar to approximately [1.2 billion](#) from just over 1 billion. Many families living above the poverty line are struggling to provide for their children, too, as job loss and economic hardship take their toll. Without urgent socio-economic responses, the pandemic risks threatening decades of poverty reduction and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. To protect children from the lifelong impact of poverty, immediate and at-scale actions to expand social protection programmes, including [cash benefits](#) and [family friendly policies](#), and access to critical essential services like healthcare, nutrition and education is critical.

Among the 45 VNRs submitted this year, the majority highlighted the impact of the pandemic on public health, societies and economies as well as on the reporting process itself. Countries also emphasized their health and socio-economic responses to the crisis, including social protection measures which ranged from unemployment benefits to cash assistance. **Yet focus on children living in poverty were largely missing from the**

COVID-19 analysis of the VNRs - despite children’s extreme vulnerability to monetary and multidimensional poverty. Some positive examples include:

- **India’s** stimulus package includes direct cash transfers for the most vulnerable, including unemployment protection for job losses, and income support through Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana scheme. The cash support is reaching 200 million women bank account holders.
- **Kenya’s** VNR noted that the school closures have affected tens of thousands of children, and there are fears that vulnerable students may not return to school. The report further warns that the consequences on girls’ education, health and wellbeing could be dire, and reverse important gains made in the past years. The Government, together with partners such as the World Bank, WHO and UNICEF, set up health and socio-economic responses, which includes cash transfers and food aid.
- **Mozambique’s** VNR stressed how the COVID-19 crisis is equally a child-rights crisis and could lead to lifelong challenges in health, education and secure income. The report further notes the crisis could trap generations in cycles of poverty. To mitigate these harms, Mozambique has taken social protection measures

and strengthened its efforts to monitor and support the most vulnerable groups, including through activation of Risk Fund created to deal with emergency situations.

- **Uzbekistan** highlighted how the pandemic may potentially push an additional 448,000 people into poverty, and the disproportionate impact it has on the poorest and most vulnerable populations. The government has taken

a number of measures to cushion the effects on families, through vertically and horizontally expanding existing benefits, and easing the requirements for receiving assistance. For instance, low income families who receive child support grant or childcare subsidy were provided additional top ups, and benefits were automatically renewed for the next period. Uzbekistan also provided in kind support to vulnerable populations in the form of food packages.

7. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

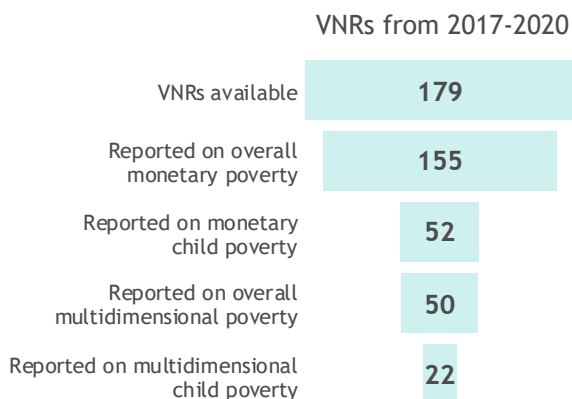
With the impact of COVID-19 crisis on child poverty expected to be severe and long term, achieving SDG 1 target of ending extreme poverty for every child, and halving child poverty in all its dimensions as nationally defined will require urgent and sustained efforts. The task is enormous but achievable.

This year, the number of countries reporting on monetary and multidimensional child poverty rates were only 11 and 9 respectively. On the positive side, 33 countries mention variety of efforts to address child poverty, through policies, programmes and budgets. The Coalition congratulates these countries, and is happy to showcase the good and innovative practices in this brief. However, the overall analysis and numbers represent a dire picture in terms of measurement and reporting of multidimensional child poverty, unfortunately not much different to reports submitted in previous years. Also, it should be noted that children remain largely invisible in measures reported on as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We must recognize that stopping the intergenerational transmission of poverty starts with addressing child poverty in our countries. Governments will not be able to do this effectively if they are not able

to measure multidimensional child poverty, develop policies address it, and subsequently monitor it, and report, and celebrate, via the VNR and other avenues, on their progress.

As of October, the following 35 countries have committed to submitting their VNRs in 2021, most of which will report for the second or third time on their SDG progress. This is an opportunity for countries to highlight and implement measures to monitor child poverty, as well as lay out clear roadmaps in achieving the SDG target of ending child poverty.

Figure 5



Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Azerbaijan**	Bahamas*	Bhutan*	Bolivia	Cabo Verde*
Chad*	China*	Czech Republic*	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Denmark*	Germany*	Guatemala**
Iraq*	Japan*	Lao People's Democratic Republic*	Madagascar*	Malaysia*	Marshall Islands	Mexico**
Myanmar	Nicaragua	Norway*	Pakistan*	Paraguay*	Qatar**	Sierra Leone**
Slovakia*	Spain*	Sweden*	Thailand*	Tunisia*	Uruguay**	Zimbabwe*

*Presenting for the second time

**Presenting for the third time

The Coalition hopes to see the child poverty numbers improve as we go into the Decade of Action in 2021 and stands ready to support countries as they start their VNR preparation process.

Global Coalition to End Child Poverty key asks:

1. Reporting on SDG 1 child poverty indicators to establish baseline, monitor progress and guide policies

As Member States participating in the 2021 VNR prepare their reports, the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty encourages them to use this opportunity to take stock of their actions to lift children out of poverty, and report on the baseline and progress towards the child poverty related SDG indicators, in particular:

- 1.1.1. proportion of population below the international poverty line, disaggregated by children

- 1.2.1 proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, disaggregated by children.
- 1.2.2 proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Measuring poverty in early childhood, middle childhood and adolescence is critical in order for countries to take the appropriate policy actions to address poverty at different stages of children's lives. Therefore, whenever possible, these indicators should be further disaggregated by specific age groups (e.g. 0-5, 6-12, 13-17 years old).

It is also important to track not just national averages, but the pace at which gaps between socioeconomic groups in society are changing over time. Survey and other data should be used to report on inequality and gaps in progress among the poorest and most marginalized groups regularly and transparently.

2. Comprehensive national agenda to reach the SDG child poverty targets

Measurement alone will not end child poverty: once targets for reducing and eradicating child poverty have been set, these need to be followed through with strategies, policies, programmes and budgets to support families and children living in poverty. The importance of a comprehensive national strategy to end child poverty is more critical than ever, as almost everywhere the number of children living in poverty is projected to increase dramatically due to the COVID-19 crisis. The impacts of the pandemic are also experienced differently among girls and boys, with girls and women particularly vulnerable to increased violence, abuse and increased care and domestic work burdens. Only through strong social protection systems and coordinated and comprehensive actions, rather than fragmented and temporary measures, can we avoid failing an entire future generation and achieve the SDG 1 target of ending extreme child poverty in the next ten years.

Therefore, we're calling on governments and actors involved in poverty eradication efforts to put children first in their national development plans, strengthen social protection systems and report on the related SDG 1 indicators.

- 1.3.1 proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, disaggregated by children.

- 1.4.1 proportion of population living in households with access to basic services
- 1.A.1 proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes.
- 1.B.1 Pro-poor public social spending (proportion of public spending on health, education, social transfer which benefit the monetary poor)

3. Participation of non-state stakeholders, including individuals living in poverty:

The SDG Agenda should not only have a member states focus, or a UN focus. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development specifies that Member States should “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led, and country driven.”

The Coalition urges all countries to ensure that the VNR process has the attention, the engagement and the input of non-state stakeholders, the poorest and most vulnerable groups, including children. Agenda 2030 explicitly recognises children as agents of change. Non-state actors, such as civil society and donors, do have a role to play in monitoring progress and ensuring that Member States are putting in place strategies, policies and programmes to address child poverty.



8. ANNEX 1 - COUNTRY REPORTING ON CHILD POVERTY IN THEIR VNRS (2017-2020)

































*Red circle indicates NO, Green circle indicates YES

Country	VNR (latest available)	Overall monetary poverty rate reported?	Monetary child poverty reported?	Overall multidimensional poverty rate reported?	Multidimens child povert reported?
Afghanistan	2017	●	●	●	●
Albania	2018	●	●	●	●
Algeria	2019	●	●	●	●
Andorra	2018	●	●	●	●
Argentina	2020	●	●	●	●
Armenia	2020	●	●	●	●
Australia	2018	●	●	●	●
Austria	2020	●	●	●	●
Azerbaijan	2019	●	●	●	●
Bahamas	2018	●	●	●	●
Bahrain	2018	●	●	●	●
Bangladesh	2020	●	●	●	●
Belarus	2017	●	●	●	●
Belgium	2017	●	●	●	●
Belize	2017	●	●	●	●
Benin	2020	●	●	●	●
Bhutan	2018	●	●	●	●
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2019	●	●	●	●
Botswana	2017	●	●	●	●
Brazil	2017	●	●	●	●
Brunei Darussalam	2020	●	●	●	●
Bulgaria	2020	●	●	●	●
Burkina Faso	2019	●	●	●	●
Burundi	2020	●	●	●	●
Cabo Verde	2018	●	●	●	●
Cambodia	2019	●	●	●	●
Cameroon	2019	●	●	●	●
Canada	2018	●	●	●	●
Central African Republic	2019	●	●	●	●
Chad	2019	●	●	●	●
Chile	2019	●	●	●	●
Colombia	2018	●	●	●	●
Comoros	2020	●	●	●	●
Congo	2019	●	●	●	●
Costa Rica	2020	●	●	●	●
Cote d'Ivoire	2019	●	●	●	●
Croatia	2019	●	●	●	●
Cyprus	2017	●	●	●	●
Czech Republic	2017	●	●	●	●
Democratic Republic of Congo	2020	●	●	●	●
Denmark	2017	●	●	●	●
Dominican Republic	2018	●	●	●	●
Ecuador	2020	●	●	●	●
Egypt	2018	●	●	●	●

El Salvador	2017	●	●	●	●
Estonia	2020	●	●	●	●
Eswatini	2019	●	●	●	●
Ethiopia	2017	●	●	●	●
Fiji	2019	●	●	●	●
Finland	2020	●	●	●	●
Gambia	2020	●	●	●	●
Georgia	2020	●	●	●	●
Ghana	2019	●	●	●	●
Greece	2018	●	●	●	●
Guatemala	2019	●	●	●	●
Guinea	2018	●	●	●	●
Guyana	2019	●	●	●	●
Honduras	2020	●	●	●	●
Hungary	2018	●	●	●	●
Iceland	2019	●	●	●	●
India	2020	●	●	●	●
Indonesia	2019	●	●	●	●
Iraq	2019	●	●	●	●
Ireland	2018	●	●	●	●
Israel	2019	●	●	●	●
Italy	2017	●	●	●	●
Jamaica	2018	●	●	●	●
Japan	2017	●	●	●	●
Jordan	2017	●	●	●	●
Kazakhstan	2019	●	●	●	●
Kenya	2020	●	●	●	●
Kuwait	2019	●	●	●	●
Kyrgyz Republic	2020	●	●	●	●
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2018	●	●	●	●
Latvia	2018	●	●	●	●
Lebanon	2018	●	●	●	●
Lesotho	2019	●	●	●	●
Liberia	2020	●	●	●	●
Libya	2020	●	●	●	●
Liechtenstein	2019	●	●	●	●
Lithuania	2018	●	●	●	●
Luxembourg	2017	●	●	●	●
Malawi	2020	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	2017	●	●	●	●
Maldives	2017	●	●	●	●
Mali	2018	●	●	●	●
Malta	2018	●	●	●	●
Mauritania	2019	●	●	●	●
Mauritius	2019	●	●	●	●
Mexico	2018	●	●	●	●
Micronesia	2020	●	●	●	●
Monaco	2017	●	●	●	●
Mongolia	2019	●	●	●	●
Morocco	2020	●	●	●	●
Mozambique	2020	●	●	●	●
Namibia	2018	●	●	●	●



Nepal	2020	●	●	●	●
Netherlands	2017	●	●	●	●
New Zealand	2019	●	●	●	●
Niger	2020	●	●	●	●
Nigeria	2020	●	●	●	●
North Macedonia	2020	●	●	●	●
Oman	2019	●	●	●	●
Pakistan	2019	●	●	●	●
Palau	2019	●	●	●	●
Panama	2020	●	●	●	●
Papua New Guinea	2020	●	●	●	●
Paraguay	2018	●	●	●	●
Peru	2020	●	●	●	●
Philippines	2019	●	●	●	●
Poland	2018	●	●	●	●
Portugal	2017	●	●	●	●
Qatar	2018	●	●	●	●
Republic of Moldova	2020	●	●	●	●
Romania	2018	●	●	●	●
Russian Federation	2020	●	●	●	●
Rwanda	2019	●	●	●	●
Saint Lucia	2019	●	●	●	●
Samoa	2020	●	●	●	●
Saudi Arabia	2018	●	●	●	●
Senegal	2018	●	●	●	●
Serbia	2019	●	●	●	●
Seychelles	2020	●	●	●	●
Sierra Leone	2019	●	●	●	●
Singapore	2018	●	●	●	●
Slovakia	2018	●	●	●	●
Slovenia	2020	●	●	●	●
Solomon Islands	2020	●	●	●	●
South Africa	2019	●	●	●	●
Spain	2018	●	●	●	●
Sri Lanka	2018	●	●	●	●
State of Palestine	2018	●	●	●	●
Sudan	2018	●	●	●	●
Sweden	2017	●	●	●	●
Switzerland	2018	●	●	●	●
Syrian Arab Republic	2020	●	●	●	●
Tajikistan	2017	●	●	●	●
Tanzania	2019	●	●	●	●
Thailand	2017	●	●	●	●
Timor-Leste	2019	●	●	●	●
Togo	2018	●	●	●	●
Tonga	2019	●	●	●	●
Trinidad and Tobago	2020	●	●	●	●
Tunisia	2019	●	●	●	●
Turkey	2019	●	●	●	●
Turkmenistan	2019	●	●	●	●
Uganda	2020	●	●	●	●
Ukraine	2020	●	●	●	●

United Arab Emirates (UAE)	2018				
United Kingdom	2019				
Uruguay	2018				
Uzbekistan	2020				
Vanuatu	2019				
Vietnam	2018				
Zambia	2020				
Zimbabwe	2017				
	No	22	110	114	135
	Yes	134	46	42	21



9. ANNEX 2 - METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

All VNR reports from 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 available on the [SDG portal](#) were reviewed for this analysis. To identify and quantify the mentions of child poverty, and reporting on monetary child poverty rate, multidimensional child poverty rate, policies and programmes addressing child poverty we followed a two-step approach: 1. Reviewing key chapters that discuss poverty and inequality 2. Performing key word search to capture mentions of child poverty.

Identifying Countries Reporting Monetary and Multidimensional Child Poverty Rates

To identify whether countries mentioned child poverty in their reports, whether a numerical rate of monetary child poverty was cited in the report, and whether a multidimensional child poverty rate was reported in the VNR, we reviewed each report's chapters on SDG 1 progress review, SDG 10 progress review, Leave No One Behind Principle, and Statistical annex. We also performed keyword search to capture child poverty rates mentioned in parts other than mentioned above.

Assessing Reporting on Policies and Programmes to Address Child Poverty

To determine the number of countries reporting on policies and programmes addressing child poverty, explicit mentions of policies, legislation, and related efforts to tackle child poverty in the respective VNR reports were considered. Countries that clearly presented information on such policies and efforts that directly addressed child poverty, specifically under the report's chapters on SDG 1 progress review, SDG 10 progress review, Leave No One Behind Principle, were categorized as including assessments on policies and programmes to reduce child poverty.

Key words used to capture mentions of child poverty

English	Spanish	Russian	Arabic	French
Child poverty	Pobreza infantil	Детская бедность	لافطأال رقف	Pauvreté des enfants
Poverty	Pobreza	Бедность	رقفالا	Pauvreté
Multidimensional Poverty Index	Índice de Pobreza Multidimensional	Индекс многомерной бедности	ددعتم رقفالا رشؤمر داعبأالا	Indice de pauvreté multidimensionnelle
Child	Niño, Niña, Niñez	ребенок	لفط	Enfant
Multidimensional	Multidimensional	Многомерный	داعبأالا ددعتم	Multidimensionnel
Monetary poverty	Pobreza monetaria	Денежная бедность	يدقنل رقفالا	Pauvreté monétaire

Poverty line	Línea de pobreza	Черта бедности	رقفلا طخ	
Poverty reduction	Reducción de la pobreza	Сокращение бедности	رقفلا نمر دحل	Réduction de la pauvreté
Deprivation	Privación	Лишение	نامر حلا	Privation
The situation of children	La situación de los niños/las niñas/la niñez	Положение детей	لافطألة لاج	La situation des enfants
Deprivation of children	La privación de los niños/las niñas/niñez/infancia			Privations des enfants
Poverty reduction programs	Programas de reducción de la pobreza	Программы сокращения бедности		Programmes de réduction de la pauvreté
The incidence of poverty	El índice de pobreza	Уровень бедности	رقفلا راشتنا	L'incidence de la pauvreté
Poverty reduction projects	Proyectos de reducción de la pobreza	Проекты сокращения бедности		Projets de réduction de la pauvreté
Childhood	La infancia/niñez	Детство		

Limitations of VNR reviews

It is important to note that there are countries who are monitoring, measuring and addressing child poverty through policies and programmes, but are not including this in their VNRs. The analysis in this brief is only based on VNRs and, as highlighted in the Coalition key asks, sharing a comprehensive overview of child poverty efforts in VNRs strengthens global efforts to fight child poverty and achieve SDG1.



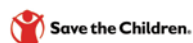


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About the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty

The Coalition is a network of like-minded organizations concerned at the devastating effects of poverty in childhood on children and societies. The Coalition promotes the need for countries and development actors to explicitly focus on child poverty and the solutions to it in national, subnational, regional and global policies, budgets and monitoring systems.

Coalition participants share a vision of a world where all children grow up free from poverty, deprivation and exclusion. Working together through the Coalition, as well as independently, Coalition participants aim to support the recognition of child poverty and the practical actions to alleviate it.



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