

ALL CHILDREN COUNT BUT NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE COUNTED



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An open letter to the UN and its Member States
Over 250 signatory organisations as of 15 November 2016

The signatories of this document welcome Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Global Action and applaud all involved for including many of children's holistic needs, including health care, education, and protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse. We wholeheartedly support the intention to 'leave no one behind' in the post-2015 global development agenda. To ensure that this is so, it is important that the global monitoring framework includes mechanisms to assess the most vulnerable and hard to reach populations.

Indeed, all children count, but not all children are counted. As a result, some of the world's most vulnerable children – those without parental care or at risk of being so; in institutions or on the street; trafficked; separated from their families as a result of conflict, disaster or disability; or recruited into armed groups – have largely fallen off the UN's statistical map. There are only limited data about how many children live in such precarious circumstances, except for scattered estimates from some specific countries.

According to UNICEF's 2015 Progress for Children report, *"As the world prepares for a new development agenda, data and evidence will only increase in importance and national systems must be strengthened to meet new demands. The new data agenda will need to harness the potential of new technologies to collect, synthesize and speed up the use of data, and also reinvigorate efforts to ensure complete and well-functioning registration systems. The new data agenda will need to provide insight into the most vulnerable children, relying on household surveys that provide data regardless of whether or not a child attends school or is taken to a health facility, as well as developing new approaches for collecting information about children who are homeless, institutionalized or internally displaced."*

With this in mind, we, the undersigned, recommend the following:

1. Ensure that children living outside of households and/or without parental care are represented in disaggregated data.

When assessing States' progress in improving the lives of children, living arrangements and caregiving environments are key markers for vulnerability, risk, and disadvantage. Children without parental care often experience abuse, neglect, lack of stimulation, and extreme and toxic stress, all of which have a profoundly negative effect on children's health, education, development, and protection.

If the Post-2015 agenda is to leave no one behind, it is essential that the global monitoring framework includes methodologies to ensure that children living outside of households and/or without parental care are represented and that data is used to inform targeted, appropriate, and accessible interventions.

Data disaggregation by care-giving setting/living arrangement is key to tracking progress for all children, particularly regarding Goals 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 16. This is critical to: a) analysing how trends differ between children living outside of households and/or without parental care and the general child population; and b) ensuring that programs and policies prioritize the most vulnerable children. Data collection should reflect the goals and definitions included in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2. Improve and expand data collection methodologies to ensure all children are represented.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has urged all States to develop indicators and data collection systems consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, children living outside of households and/or without parental care are not covered in current mainstream data collection processes, which rely on household-based surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (USAID) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (UNICEF). Innovative approaches must be developed to assess the conditions of the world's most vulnerable children. The global monitoring framework must include mechanisms to track progress for all children, including those who are currently invisible as the result of inadequate indicators and data collection systems.

The post-2015 global monitoring framework must establish mechanisms to integrate household-based data with additional information on children temporarily or permanently living outside of households. In some countries, such data already exist although, to date, such data have not been routinely collected or analyzed.

The post-2015 global monitoring framework offers an opportunity to do more and better on behalf of the world's most vulnerable children – ensuring, first and foremost, that they are no longer invisible.

Thank you for your consideration.

ABC Children's Aid
Abibimman Foundation
AbleChildAfrica
Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts
ACER Brasil
ActionAid International Rwanda
ADD International
ADILISHA: Children, Youth & Family Preservation
Afaiv Onlus*
African Child Policy Forum
African Institute for Child Studies
Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes
Alliance for Children Mauritius
Alliance for Development
Alliance for Parenting Education in Africa
Amankay Instituto de Estudos e Pesquisas
American Academy of Pediatrics
Another Hope Children's Ministries
Apmar Onlus*
Association des Jeunes Solidaires de l'Afrique
A.J.S.A.
Association for Childhood Education International
Association for Promotion Sustainable
Development India*
Association of Working Children and Youth of
Central African Republic*
ATD Fourth World
Barcha*
Bethany Christian Services
Better Care Network
Better Care Network Netherlands
BMOREiTGUY LLC
Buckner - Peru
Cambodian Children's Trust
Campagnon D'Action Pour le Developpement
Familial (CADF-ONG)
Candid Concepts Development*
Care for Children
Casa Viva - Costa Rica
CBM
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change
Research - Nigeria*
Centre for Youth Development and Adult Education
Centre of Excellence on Alternative Care of Children,
India
CESVI
CHD - Coordination Humanitaire et Développement
(includes 39 French international solidarity
organisations)
Child Helpline International
Child in Family Focus - Kenya
Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) - Uganda
Child Rights Coalition Asia
Childcare Rwanda
ChildFund Alliance
Childhood Development Trust Fund Network

Children Agenda Forum - Kenya
Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE)
Children and Young People with Disability Australia
Christian Alliance for Orphans
Christine Akwero Foundation (CAF) - Uganda
Collective Community Action
Columbia University - Columbia Group for Children
in Adversity
Columbia University - Mailman School of Public
health
Comité de los Derechos del Niño (CDNU) - Uruguay
Community Active In Development Association
(CADA)*
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
Consortium for Street Children
Construions Ensemble le Monde (ONG CEM)
Convention pour l'Emergence du Sénégal -
Coalition Agenda Post2015 (C.E.S.-C.A.P2015)*
Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza
(CNCA)
Coordination SUD
CPC Learning Network
Crece con Justicia
Curious Minds
Danielle Childrens Fund
Defence for Children International (DCI)
Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional (DNI) Costa
Rica
Developpeurs Sans Frontieres*
Disability Rights International
Dogodogo Centre Street Children Trust
Edutech for Environment
Elevate Children Funders Group
Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y
Reproductivos
ENFOQUE Niñez
Equipe Pastorale auprès des Enfants en Détresse*
Essl Foundation*
EU-CORD
Eurochild
European Association For Service Providers for
Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
European Foundation Centre (EFC)
European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)
Ezra Ministries of Tanzania
Family for Every Child
Firelight Foundation
First Step - Cambodia
For Our Children Foundation
Forum Syd*
Foster Care India
Foundation for Environmental Stewardship
Friends of Education for African Children Orphaned
by AIDS
Fundacion Kidsave Colombia
GARJAN-Nepal
GHR Foundation
Gimnaziul Ciutulești*

Gimnaziul Gura Căinarului*
Global Alliance for Children (GAC)
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
Global Social Service Workforce Alliance
GlobalPartnersUnited*
Goal Global
Good Health Community Programmes*
Grand River South East Youth Circle*
Group For Transcultural Relations, GRT
Haitian Families First
Helen Little Haiti Foundation
HelPeople Foundation NGO
Heshima Kenya*
Hope and Homes
Hope Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship
Human Dignity Foundation
Human Rights Watch
Inclusion International
Independence of Disabled Persons of Kenya [IDPK]*
Independent Living Programme for People with Disabilities
International Adoption
International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates
International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)
International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO)
International Social Service - Australia
International Social Service - Canada
International Social Service - Netherlands
International Social Service - USA
International Social Service -Switzerland
International Society on Early Intervention
International Step by Step Association (ISSA)
IntraHealth International
Investing in Children and their Societies
Isman Women Initiative Support Organisation (ISMAN)
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environment Nepal (JVE NEPAL)*
Jo'burg Child Welfare
Kakamega CSOs Network*
KEDEN-Alliance for Community Survival
Kenya Counselling & Psychological Association*
Kidasha (formerly: Child Welfare Scheme)
KidSave
Kiviwosheg
La Porte Ouverte asbl
Lango Samaritan Initiative Organization (LSIO)
Le Radici e Le Ali - Associazione Famiglie Adottive
Leonard Cheshire Disability
liceul teoretic, Vasile Alecsandri, or.Marculesti, r-on Floresti*
Light for the World
Literate Pakistan Programme - A project of NCLSW, Better Education for All - Pakistan*
Little Angels Network
Lumos

M'Lop Tapang
Maestral
Make Mothers Matter - MMM
Mario Negri Research Institute
Masizame Child & Youth Care Centre
Mouvement Africain Des Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs (MAEJT)- Central African Republic
Movimiento Salvavidas*
MyRight- Empowers persons with disabilities
Nadacni fond J&T
National Foster Care Association Malta - NFCAM
National Youth Council of Ireland
National Youth Parliament*
Ndenuka Education Centre*
New Light Children Center Organization
NGO Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi
Numeria statistiche*
OAfrica
Oak Foundation
OPCIÓN
Parenting in Africa Network
Parenting Uganda*
Partnership for Early Childhood Development & Disability Rights (PECDDR)
Patronato pro-home child irapuato, a.c. (Villa Infantil)
Peoples' Development Forum (PDF)
Phoenix Child Welfare
Plan International
Progetto Famiglia Onlus
Psychosocial Support Centre Ltd
Reacción Climática - Bolivia
Red een Kind
Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento Familiar
RELAF
REPSSI
REPSSI Uganda
Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
Restorative Justice Centre
Restoring and empowering communities (REC)
Rete Italiana Disabilita E Sviluppo
ReThink Orphanages
RETRAK
RIATT – ESA
Rodina u nás
Rural Women Development Initiative
S.A.L.V.E. International
SA Cares for Life
Safe Child Africa
Salinger
Samband íslenskra kristniboðsfélaga (Icelandic Lutheran Mission)
Save the Children
Save Uganda Foundation
Secours Islamique France
Sedava Enterprises
Serviciu de asistență psihopedagogică*

Sewing God's Seeds
SFAC
Sightsavers
So They Can
So They Can - Kenya
Society "Our Children" Opatija - Croatia
Sol i Togo
SOS Children's Villages
SOS Children's Villages - Lesotho
SOS Children's Villages Greece
SOS Children's Villages International
SOS Children's Villages Italy
SOS Children's Villages Germany
SOS Enfants Sans Frontières France
SOS Villages d'Enfants Belgique
SOS Villages d'Enfants France
SOS Villages d'Enfants Mali
SPOON Foundation
Stahili Foundation
State University "A. Russo"*
Tanzania Community Based Option for Protection
and Empowerment Organisation (TACOPE)*
TASH
Technical Support Unit Ltd
Terres des Hommes
The Bouncing Ball Trust
The Education Support Program, Open Society
Foundation*
The Foundation for Tomorrow*
The Life Hood of Children and Development Society
(LICHIDE)*
The RISE Institute
Tiraspol State University
TRE for Africa Foundation

Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC)
Uganda Reproductive Health Bureau
Umtata Child Abuse Resource Centre (UCARC)
Unda Gotita de Agua -Fundacion Ecologica y
Cultural
UNESCO Center for Global Education
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
Upendo Daima Project for Street Children
Urbis Foundation
Vela Microboard Association
Vision Africa - Give a Child a Future
Viva
Voice Of Young Mothers
VSO International
We are the Present
Wereldkinderen
World Childhood Foundation
World of Inclusion
Young Mothers Support Group
Young Strong Mothers Foundation
Youth Against Debt - Eastern Visayas Chapter
Youth Environment Network
Youth for Peace International
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
Youth Revolution Clan (Y.R.C.)*

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