

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The progress of improvement of children's health has been recognized and underlined for years but the fact that we still have a long way to go when it comes to helping children reach their full potential, thrive and meet their health needs couldn't be ignored. This presentation focuses on advocating for accelerated improvements in children's well-being, singling out challenges and roadblocks on the way to a higher health quality, and answering the question of whether we are doing enough which is important in the fight for children's rights, needs and adequate support.

Comparison of health-related information for different categories, regions, households, and display of various trends specific to children's health were performed by using several visualizations such as line and slope graphs, a circle view chart, grouped and stacked bar graphs as well as by creating a contrast with the help of colors gray and blue (so popular in healthcare).

More than 50% reduction in mortality of children under 5 years old observed over the time period of almost 3 decades is a proof that significant effort has been applied to improve children's survival. Yet, younger children are still really vulnerable. According to the performed analysis newborns experience the highest risk of mortality. In 2019 about 2.5 million children died during the neonatal period. Working towards ending preventable deaths of newborns should be a priority.

The children's nutrition crisis is evident from the lack of quality nutrition in the underdeveloped regions and the number of overweight and underweight children in the various corners of the World. The overview of the situation of diet practices showed that it is unfair for the least developed countries. Comparing several regions for the malnutrition outcomes demonstrates that a high number of overweight children is found in wealthier regions (with North America leading the chart), while the number of underweight children is a bigger concern in the poorer regions (with South Asia showing the worst indicators of thinness).

Interventions, new approaches and recognition of a problem that communicable diseases create is another aspect of fight for children's health that needs to be addressed. Pneumonia, diarrhea and sepsis claim too many children's lives. Poor households are found to lag behind when seeking for necessary care when the symptoms of such a disease as diarrhea are present in children. The progress in reduction of new HIV infections and deaths related to AIDS signifies that hard work has been done towards ending the disastrous effects of this disease. The number of AIDS-related deaths (95,000) among children 0-14 years old in 2019 is close to that of 1990 which indicates that we need to strive for even faster and better treatment of this infection. Many of the deaths caused by infectious diseases are preventable.

There has been a stall in vaccinating children against such infectious diseases as tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and pneumococcal infection. Even though vaccination coverage for these diseases is at about 85%, many young children, especially newborns, still need to be vaccinated for a better chance of survival.

### Conclusion

When trying to answer the question of whether we are doing enough for the children of the world with the help of data from UNICEF, conclusion was made that we should and must do a lot more. Sustainable future of the children of the World depends on how well we integrate new preventative approaches, address the long present issues of inequality in providing help and support for the health of children in different regions and households, recognize new threats to the children's well-being for different age groups, prioritize healthcare accessibility and responsible united effort of communities that children live in.

### References

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