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# Roadmap

on improving child statistics  
in the Republic of Tajikistan

Dushanbe - 2025





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## Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APA	Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
AS	Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
ASIP	Agency for Social Insurance and Pensions under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSOs	Civil society organizations
CwD	Children with disabilities
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EMIS	Education Management Information System
GoRT	Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HMIS	Health Management Information System
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
JSR	Joint Sector Review
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoEDT	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan
MoHSPP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan
MoJ	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan
MoLMEP	Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan
MTDP	Medium-Term Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan
NDS 2030	National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030
NEDS 2030	National Education Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NHS 2030	National Health Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030
SASPP	State Agency for Social Protection of the Population
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPDS 2040	Social Protection Development Strategy of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040
TSA	Targeted social assistance
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Republic of Tajikistan ratified the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1993<sup>1</sup>, and since then the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (GoRT), with the support of UNICEF and other development partners, has shown special attention to promoting the rights of every child in the country, especially the most vulnerable children. The GoRT has developed the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 and has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>2</sup>.

In this context, UNICEF, in partnership with the Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, conducted an analysis of statistical systems and child-related data with a focus on the SDGs.

The objective of this analysis is to carry out a rapid and overall assessment of the availability and accessibility of data for monitoring child-related SDG indicators, as well as commitments in the field of child rights from the perspective of data demand, supply and use. This analysis identified strengths, weaknesses (gaps), barriers and opportunities for transforming data capacity into outcomes for children.

Child statistics cover persons under the age of 18<sup>3</sup>. At the international level, various measures have been undertaken to improve the situation of children and adolescents. Requirements for the preparation of country reports and information on specific strategies and initiatives have been defined, as well as the scope of statistical data related to the situation of children and adolescents. At the same time, the issue of data shortages and the need to improve them is emphasized<sup>4</sup>.

*Brief information on the role of children.* The Republic of Tajikistan is a lower-middle-income country in Central Asia. The country's gross domestic product per capita amounted to USD 1,160.8 in 2023<sup>5</sup>.

Children and adolescents constitute the main demographic dividend: out of a population of 10.3 million, 4.25 million are children and adolescents under 18 years of age (this is 41.3% of the country's population)<sup>6</sup>. The population is growing rapidly and, according to projections, by 2030 the number of children and adolescents will reach 4.7 million<sup>7</sup>.

The proportion of girls among children and adolescents in the Republic of Tajikistan is slightly lower compared to boys: the share of girls is 48.7% and the share of boys is 51.3%, respectively<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child // <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Coordination and prioritization of national strategies in the interests of children with child-focused SDGs. Oxford Policy Management/UNICEF, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

<sup>4</sup> Statistics on Children, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Guidance\_statistics\_children\_Publ Ru Web.pdf

<sup>5</sup> World Bank: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/overview>

<sup>6</sup> Annual Demography of the Republic of Tajikistan, statistical yearbook, Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

<sup>7</sup> World Population Prospects 2024

<sup>8</sup> Population and housing census of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2020. Volume 2 – Age, sex and marital status composition of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan.



At present, 77.4% of children and adolescents are located in rural areas<sup>9</sup>.

The ethnic composition of the country's children and adolescents consists of 86.3% Tajiks, 11.1% Uzbeks, and 2.6% other ethnic groups<sup>10</sup>.

One of the country's primary priorities is the collection and analysis of data on children, because the country understands that, like the rest of the world, until the specific needs of children are monitored and addressed, it will not be able to achieve most SDG targets across the entire 2030 Agenda. In this process, efforts to overcome existing challenges on the path to achieving results for children continue, including access to core data and disaggregated data on child-related SDGs.

## 1. PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ROADMAP ON IMPROVING CHILD STATISTICS

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This Roadmap presents actions related to improving the collection and use of child statistics, particularly in the preparation of information for monitoring the fulfilment of children's rights and tracking SDG indicators related to children. This report describes the status of child-related statistics, including data sources from surveys and administrative data, by SDG areas.

The Roadmap is intended for ministries and agencies, local executive bodies of state authority, institutions and interested agencies that use data on children as a key tool to substantiate the direction of activities for the protection of children's rights and the achievement of child-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Overall, the use of data to achieve child-related SDGs and the effective implementation of obligations in the field of child rights has two main objectives:

- ensuring support for decision-making in the area of sustainable development;
- establishing the necessary basis for a deeper analysis of issues related to achieving these objectives.

The effective use of a set of data can influence the direction of activities and accelerate progress towards the future we want.

Within the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, the following tasks have been set in the area of ensuring children's well-being:

- introducing the practice of preparing national reports on children's well-being reflecting social inclusion, including children with disabilities, orphans, children from low-income families, and children in conflict with the law;
- institutional development of the system for the state protection of children's rights, and the formulation of a policy to improve the situation of children (introducing into law the concept of "legal justice for children");

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<sup>9</sup> Population and housing census of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2020. Volume 2 – Age, sex and marital status composition of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan.

<sup>10</sup> Population and housing census of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2020. Volume 3 – Ethnic composition, knowledge of languages and citizenship of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan.



- establishing a system to prevent the deterioration of children’s well-being;
- establishing a child rights institution (Ombudsman) and carrying out legal reforms related to juvenile justice (minors).

In this process, it is important that child-related data—while complying with UN official principles and methodology—are collected regularly, and that results and development trends are monitored on a regular basis. Regular access to data supports the substantiation of priorities in various sectors that reflect the situation of children.

The Republic of Tajikistan has achieved successes in measuring and monitoring children’s well-being; at the same time, serious efforts are needed to improve data quality. For this, investments and coordination of activities in data collection, reporting, dissemination and quality management, which are necessary for result-oriented and effective use by public administration bodies and various stakeholders (for example, the private sector, scholars, and the broader civil society), are important.

Based on the results of the analysis of data and statistical systems, priority areas and objectives for strengthening data collection for children were developed to identify directions for strategic investment. This Roadmap helps the GoRT, UNICEF and other partners to direct limited resources to specific actions to improve data for children and to provide information on future resource mobilization efforts. The analysis of statistical data and the Action Plan will, in particular, help the Agency on Statistics and other relevant ministries and agencies to review and implement priorities in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics with consideration of improving child statistics. It will also help UNICEF to implement UNICEF’s Strategic Framework on Data for Children within its country programme for 2023–2026.

The analysis of statistical data is based on an internal review of a wide range of existing reports and documents, such as assessments of information systems, statistical publications, national legislation, strategic documents and official websites. It also uses information collected during three rounds of consultative workshops with government authorities within the subgroup of the Inter-Agency SDG Working Group under the Agency on Statistics, key interviews with relevant representatives of sectoral ministries, academic circles and development partners, as well as consultative meetings with relevant UN agencies and UNICEF staff at the national level.

## 2. ALIGNMENT WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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Since the ratification of the Convention by the Republic of Tajikistan in 1993, the GoRT has made significant efforts to align legislation. A series of laws, such as “On the Protection of the Rights of the Child”, “On State Social Insurance”, and “On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, have been adopted, which reflect the core content of the Convention.

Under Article 35, States Parties undertake to submit to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child reports on the measures they have adopted to give effect to the rights recognized in the Convention and on the progress made in the enjoyment of those rights.



To date, the Republic of Tajikistan has submitted five national reports on the implementation of the provisions of this Convention.

Overall, in its annual reports, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has drawn attention to data with the following conclusions:

- a) the need to improve data collection on vulnerable children exists in the absolute majority of countries;
- b) data shortages are a result of inequality in progress across various programmes for children, particularly regarding the system for ensuring children's well-being.

In its most recent Concluding Observations (2017), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) emphasized that data on all persons under 18 years of age are important for analysing the situation of children and developing targeted sectoral policies. It was also recommended that data collected by the State—by the Agency on Statistics—be disaggregated, including by age, sex, geographic location, and ethnic and socio-economic status, and that, to inform policymakers and ensure the effective use of information, efforts should be undertaken to strengthen the capacity of public authorities to carry out specific analyses and assessments regarding the implementation of the SDGs<sup>11</sup>.

### 3. ALIGNMENT WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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The Republic of Tajikistan (RT) is actively advancing in the implementation of the SDGs. SDG implementation in the RT encompasses a three-stage process adopted by the United Nations and the Government:

- determining the level of SDG indicators;
- integrating the SDGs into the country's development programmes and plans;
- establishing a measurement system to measure progress in SDG implementation.

“Currently, in the Republic of Tajikistan, work on specifying SDG goals and targets, taking into account the national system of sustainable development indicators, has been launched, and processes for introducing and ensuring the mandatory consideration of the SDGs in national, sectoral and regional programmes that define their nationalization have begun”<sup>12</sup>.

**SDG nationalization and localization.** To assess progress in sustainable development, the responsible state bodies (organizations) ensure the nationalization of all sustainable development indicators through their integration into national, sectoral and regional strategies and programmes, development plans that define the activities of the Government and central and local authorities, and determine target indicator levels for measuring the degree of achievement of the SDGs.

To ensure the consolidation of activities on SDG implementation, the National Development Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan operates. Within the Council, 14 inter-agency working groups have been established, whose main task is to

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<sup>11</sup> Concluding Observations on the third to fifth periodic reports of Tajikistan. CRC, 2017

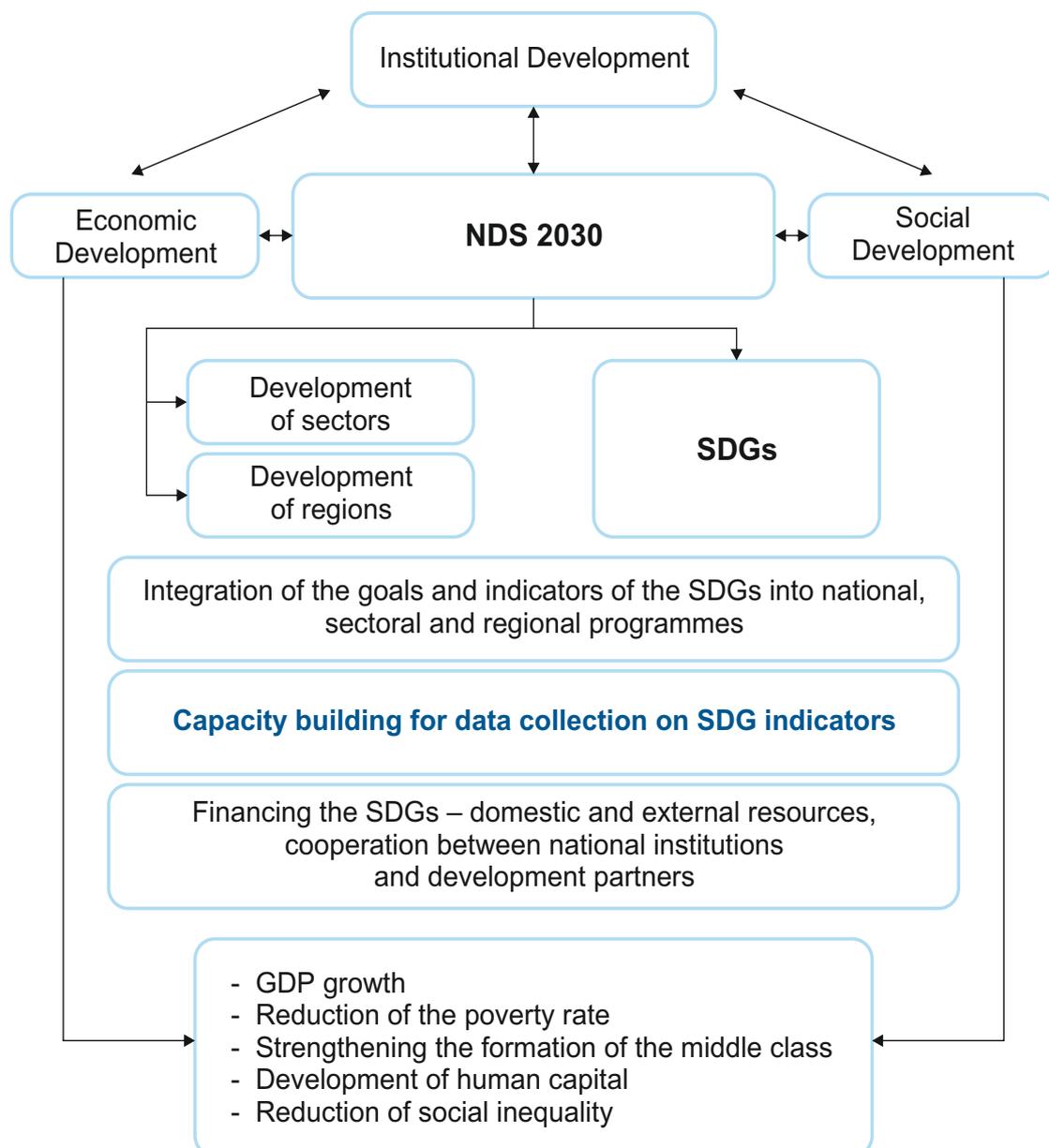
<sup>12</sup> Medium-Term Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2025.



analyse the implementation processes of development strategies and programmes in line with long-term development goals and targets within the SDG framework.

The SDGs are reflected in the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 (approved by the Decision of the GoRT of 27 November 2019, No. 585) and are linked to state programmes of socio-economic development. All normative legal acts adopted in the country are assessed for compliance with the Sustainable Development Agenda<sup>13</sup>.

Currently, work on specifying SDG goals and targets, taking into account the national system of sustainable development indicators, is being carried out; the process of introducing and taking into account the SDGs in national, sectoral and regional programmes has begun, which specifies the directions of activities. In 2017, the MAPS mission in Tajikistan conducted a rapid comprehensive (complex) assessment regarding the alignment of the SDGs with the country's development strategies and programmes.



<sup>13</sup> In accordance with Article 16 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Strategic Planning and State Forecasting", it is very important to ensure that the goals, priorities and objectives of strategic planning documents are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.



It was determined that, in two national strategic documents of the country—the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 and the Medium-Term Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016–2020—approximately 64% of SDG targets were reflected. A broader review, which included 10 national development strategies and programmes of the country, showed an integration level of 78%. As a result, a map/profile of Tajikistan regarding the level of alignment of the SDGs with the country's development strategies and programmes was prepared, and it showed different levels of alignment for goals directly related to demographic issues: SDG 1 (poverty) – 60%, SDG 2 (hunger, malnutrition) – 80%, SDG 3 (health) – 100%, SDG 4 (education) – 100%, SDG 5 (gender) – 100%, SDG 10 (inequality) – 71%, and others.

Tasks related to SDG implementation have been integrated into the country's programme activities. For Tajikistan, taking into account demographic trends, it is important to encourage and promote effective partnerships among state organizations, the public and private sectors, and civil society organizations, drawing on experience and strategies for leveraging the capacities of all relevant stakeholders.

The effectiveness of efforts to achieve national goals, commitments on SDG implementation and improved child well-being is impossible without quality monitoring, which ensures an accurate and reliable assessment of progress towards achieving the goals. Monitoring makes it possible, based on information collection and its analysis, to develop an appropriate understanding of the situation, key trends and, on this basis, to formulate effective management decisions.

The primary responsibility for SDG planning and implementation rests with the Government of the country. At the same time, the implementation of these global goals is impossible without relevant measures at the local level. The introduction and implementation of the SDGs at the local level is an important condition for achieving global goals worldwide.

At present, Tajikistan is in an active phase of SDG localization, within which the linkages between global SDGs and local goals and measures are ensured.

At the same time, localization ensures the advancement of tasks, information, resources and measures in two interconnected and complementary directions:

- global goals and indicators are considered at the local level: local authorities and residents determine how they can contribute to the implementation of these goals in their area;
- progress and initiatives at the local level are incorporated into the national and global agenda.

The main objective for the future is to strengthen the vision of local sustainable development in programmes, which, together with the introduction of resources, policy priorities and areas of work, is implemented through the monitoring processes for SDG indicators. In this regard, increased activities are envisaged to strengthen the reporting capacity of local statistics and to facilitate cooperation between local authorities and sectoral ministries and committees.

The developed national system of indicators for SDG monitoring in most cases makes it possible to provide their disaggregation at least up to the oblast level.

***Taking children's interests into account in national and local Voluntary Reviews.*** A national and/or local Voluntary Review is a process through which countries assess and present the status of national and/or local development and progress in implementing the SDGs.



The purpose of a national or local Voluntary Review is to strengthen policies and institutional activities to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve the SDGs.

The RT prepared and presented the national Voluntary Review twice—in 2017 (under the theme “Improving the living standards of the population through integrating the SDGs into Tajikistan’s national policy”) and in 2023 (under the theme “Green development for a sustainable and bright future”). At the same time, a local Voluntary Review (under the theme “Dushanbe: a ‘smart’ and sustainable future”) was presented once in 2024. These materials provided references to data collection and reflecting the situation of children and adolescents, and emphasized the need to improve the national statistical database.

In 2023, Tajikistan celebrated the thirty-third anniversary of its independence. Over the 30 years since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Tajikistan has taken significant steps to strengthen the architecture and implementation of services to improve the well-being of the country’s children. This celebration provided a good opportunity to reflect on past achievements in the area of protecting and promoting children’s rights and to consider strategically what can be done to ensure a better future for every child in Tajikistan.

## 4. TRACKING PROGRESS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

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Assessment of progress towards achieving the SDGs is ensured at the national and international levels.

*International data sources and statistics on children.* The main source of global statistics on children is UNICEF, which regularly publishes cross-sectoral reports such as The State of the World’s Children, as well as a series of data-driven publications. UNICEF has publicly available data that assess the situation of children based on a set of internationally approved and comparable indicators, reflecting various aspects, such as demography, disability, poverty, nutrition, mortality and health, education and development, violence, sanitation and hygiene, child labour.

UNICEF’s regional initiative within the platform for tracking the efforts of countries in Europe and Central Asia to monitor the implementation of children’s rights, including child-related SDGs<sup>14</sup>, makes it possible to assess each country’s efforts on key goals and to substantiate areas requiring action.

Within the framework of international monitoring efforts to achieve the SDGs, other organizations have developed tools to assess results for each SDG and its specific indicators, including:

- within the Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals platform, which is developed and continuously reviewed by the World Bank. It also presents methods for measuring the SDGs<sup>15</sup>.
- in the process of assessing the SDG Index, which is presented annually to introduce the ranking of countries worldwide, and is published annually by the Bertelsmann Stiftung/Sustainable Development Solutions Network<sup>16</sup>. According to the 2023 SDG Index and Dashboards Report, Tajikistan ranks 89th (out of 166 countries included in

<sup>14</sup> Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity – TransMonEE: [www.transmonee.org](http://www.transmonee.org)

<sup>15</sup> <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgateas?lang=en>

<sup>16</sup> <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org>

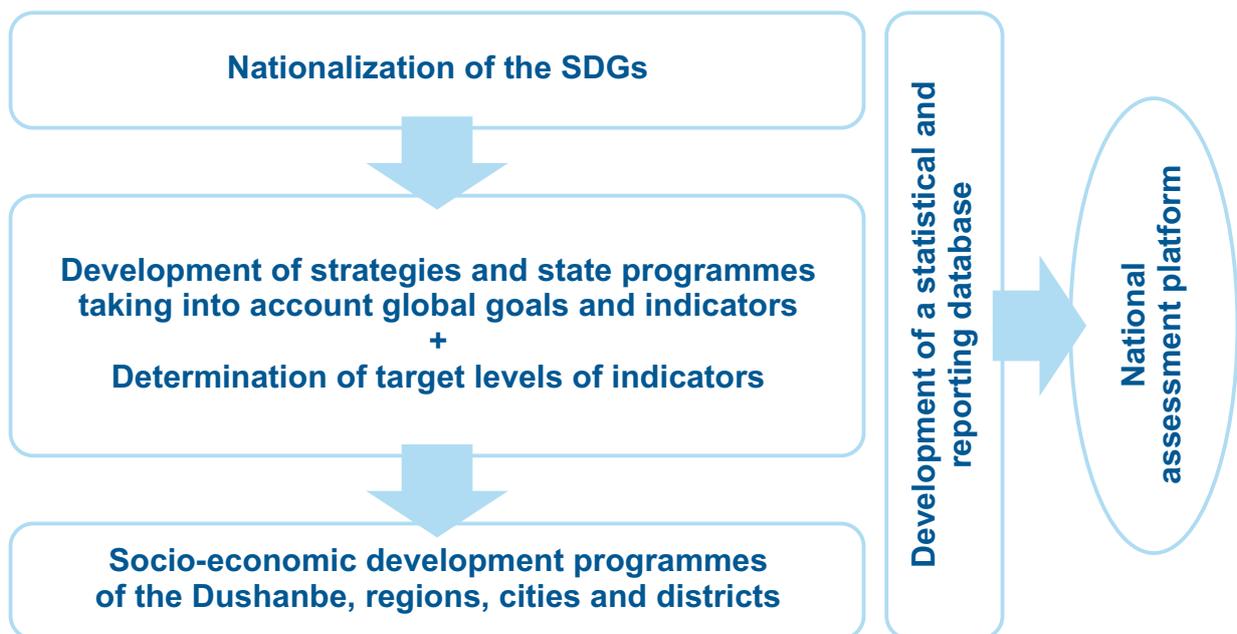


the study); Tajikistan's score (68.09 points) indicates that the country has, on average, covered 68.09% of the "path to achieving the best possible outcomes for 16 SDGs" (the country does not participate in the implementation of SDG 14)<sup>17</sup>.

- the Global SDG Indicators Data Platform, which reflects information provided by the UN Statistics Division. It contains data collected on more than 210 indicators<sup>18</sup>.

National data sources and statistics on children. In 2023, the Agency on Statistics, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and other relevant ministries and agencies, developed the SDG Tracker platform with the technical support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (<https://tajstat.github.io/sdg-site-tajikistan/tg/>). The platform makes it possible to determine national targets for assessing progress for 131 indicators for which data are available, by compiling SDG progress charts. Its advantage lies in the adaptation of the set of indicators (adding indirect indicators and/or decreasing indicators), updating data and setting national targets.

Progress assessment is carried out at three levels: goal, target and indicator. The SDG Tracker platform also promotes the use of disaggregated data.



Tajikistan has committed to ensuring sustainable and comprehensive economic development by using demographic dividends and investing in the protection of children's rights. The preparation of timely and disaggregated data and ensuring their use for planning / budgeting / forecasting and public investments is also planned. Commitments have been undertaken to build an inclusive society in which children and adolescents, regardless of place of residence, gender and health status, feel valued, are able to shape their own destiny and contribute to the prosperity of their society.

<sup>17</sup> Report on sustainable development 2024 <https://sdgtransformationcenter.org/reports/sustainable-development-report-2024>

<sup>18</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>



The concept of this Platform has been developed taking into account technological and methodological advances in the operation of such platforms, as well as the organizational and technical regulations for cooperation among public authorities.

This Platform is a single source of data that should review and track progress towards achieving the SDGs in the Republic of Tajikistan. It should be widely used in the development of national strategic documents and cooperation programmes with UN organizations; through feedback, it should contribute to improving the SDG indicator system.

In this process, the National SDG Reporting Platform should comply with the requirements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the 2030 Agenda:

- **comparability:** the Platform provides data prepared in accordance with metadata agreed at the international level;
- **transparency:** the Platform ensures the possibility of publishing relevant metadata and other background information;
- **timeliness:** the Platform ensures the possibility of continuously providing data on SDG indicators;
- **broad accessibility:** the Platform ensures access to the collected indicators.

The National SDG Reporting Platform helps to achieve the following results:

- increasing the level of awareness among a wide range of users and engaging civil society in sustainable development issues;
- providing up-to-date information to the Government and public administration bodies for planning and directing activities to achieve the country's sustainable development;
- ensuring the availability of an information resource for preparing national reports on SDG achievement in the country;
- streamlining work with international organizations and institutions.

Responsible public authorities are responsible for determining target levels of SDG indicators.

Data on children are available both in the National SDG Reporting Platform and in the databases of international organizations and specialized institutions. Work to ensure the consistency of these data continues. However, in practice, differences exist due to the use of different methodologies, the adjustment of indicators by international organizations to ensure their international comparability, and different update schedules.

The Agency on Statistics developed a draft Guidelines on Metadata for SDG Monitoring and launched the national platform for SDG monitoring and data dissemination<sup>19</sup>, which was developed in 2021 within the framework of the UK-funded project "Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Tajikistan", implemented by the UNDP. The Agency on Statistics, together with other state institutions, has been mandated to maintain the data repository in accordance with international approaches for monitoring the achievement of SDG indicators at the national level in cooperation with UN international organizations. The platform enables data to be disseminated and used by all stakeholders. Nevertheless, there are difficulties in regular updating and website accessibility due to connectivity issues.

<sup>19</sup> <http://sdg.stat.tj/>



In the state budget, financing for the implementation of national priorities aligned with relevant SDG goals is envisaged; however, the fragmentation of programmes and their varying levels of effectiveness do not allow financing for each SDG to be assessed. Since the SDGs are part of the country's national policy framework, it is important that the SDGs be integrated into countries' budget frameworks, which facilitates monitoring and reviewing the impact of budget-related decisions and creating links between the allocation of public resources and the implementation of SDG targets.

In 2022, the Ministry of Finance expanded existing budget circulars and templates of the SDG tracking tool, which require integrating SDG goals with the budget's end-result frameworks. This integration included adapting budget instructions to incorporate SDG policy into the existing budget process, such as programme budgeting and information on budget execution.

Efforts are jointly focused on addressing challenges related to expanding the capacity of statistical authorities to collect and provide data for SDG assessment, including within the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 (approved by the Decision of the GoRT of 27 November 2019, No. 585). It is expected that the quality and accessibility of national data within the ongoing reforms on assessing progress in SDG implementation will improve.

## 5. CHILD - RELATED DATA LANDSCAPE

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### Data demand

*To assess the situation of children within country reports (for example, on the implementation of the country's obligations) regarding progress and development, it is necessary to collect and process extensive and specific information on key aspects of children's rights.* In general, Tajikistan, which has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), has undertaken to improve data for monitoring the situation of children in the country. The National Action Plan for 2018–2022 on the implementation of the 2017 Concluding Observations of the CRC includes several data-related measures. Tajikistan submitted its sixth and seventh periodic state report to the CRC in May 2022, which includes the progress achieved, as well as information on data.

*To align the country's social development strategies and programmes, as well as those of its sectors and regions, with legislative requirements, consideration of child-related SDGs is mandatory.* In accordance with Article 16 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Strategic Planning and State Forecasting", strategic planning documents (strategy, medium-term development programmes) must ensure that goals, priorities and objectives are aligned with the SDGs. At present, strategies and development programmes across all sectors and regions of the country that reflect social aspects are under development and implementation. The need to substantiate and assess ideas, including the achievement of child-related SDGs, is increasing.

*To monitor the implementation of the country's social development strategies and programmes, as well as those of its sectors and regions, the scope of using child-related SDG indicators is expanding.* In recent years, the GoRT has included several measurable commitments on children's rights in national and subnational strategic planning documents; for example, a number of child-related priorities and key indicators were



incorporated into the Medium-Term Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2025 (MTDP). At the same time, sectoral strategic documents, especially in education development, health protection, social protection, water and sanitation, include child-related priorities and SDG indicators.

At the subnational level – within the socio-economic development programmes of the country’s regions (socio-economic development programmes of regions and cities and districts) – SDG indicators are increasingly being incorporated. That is, SDG localization increases the need to substantiate target indicators at the regional level. The MTDP 2021–2025 notes the lack of information to assess social inequality in the country and the need to integrate the SDGs into local development programmes and expand the SDG localization process.

*Overall, the availability of comprehensive and disaggregated data on children, and its effective use at all administrative levels, is very important and necessary.*

## Data supply

The Agency on Statistics, together with state organizations authorized to promote official statistics, through cooperation with UN international organizations, has assumed the task of ensuring the provision of data for the further monitoring of SDG achievement indicators at the national level.

The Agency serves as the authorized central executive body responsible for producing official statistics in accordance with the Law “On State Statistics.”<sup>20</sup> Its organizational structure comprises the central office, the Main Computing Centre (MCC), four provincial statistics directorates, the Dushanbe city statistics directorate, and 68 district and city statistics directorates, departments, and sections.

The Agency makes its statistical compilations available in both print and electronic formats through its official website<sup>21</sup>. Since 2015, the Agency has been progressively transitioning to electronic reporting via a dedicated personal account system for reporting entities. Its long-term objective is to establish fully electronic records and, ultimately, to develop a comprehensive Population Register.

Extensive links and dialogues between the Agency and other members of the national statistical system, as well as sectoral and regional public administration bodies, on reviewing and monitoring the fulfilment of children’s rights and tracking child-related SDG indicators are important, and the importance of ensuring a common understanding of the mandates and responsibilities of stakeholders in this area is very high.

Sectoral management information systems are at different stages of development, and the education, health, social protection, and civil status registration sectors have achieved greater progress and are supported by development partners and international financial institutions.

In Tajikistan, administrative data are collected regularly, but data disaggregation by age and sex is not fully ensured. The collected data do not always meet data needs. Data collection systems often do not provide the required data at the necessary time. Data on households and the most vulnerable children are not always fully covered. When disaggregated data are not available in a timely manner, especially on the most vulnerable children, it becomes difficult for decision-makers to direct policy decisions and measures towards those children.

<sup>20</sup> Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On State Statistics”:  
[https://stat.tj/storage/pages/law\\_of\\_the\\_republic\\_of\\_tajikistan\\_on\\_state\\_statistics\\_1.pdf](https://stat.tj/storage/pages/law_of_the_republic_of_tajikistan_on_state_statistics_1.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.stat.tj/tafsiri-elektronii-nashriyaho-bojgoni-2/>



At the subnational level, the source of primary data collection varies by sector: primary health care facilities collect data in the health sector, schools in the education sector, and jamoats in social protection and demography. In most systems, more disaggregated data (by villages, schools, health facilities) are available at the city/district level. Across all sectors, most difficulties arise mainly at the lowest level. The lack of trained staff due to high staff turnover and heavy workload makes data collection, verification and transmission difficult, affecting data quality. Although almost all cities have computer equipment, most data systems are still paper-based, and internet connectivity needs improvement.

By strengthening the coordination capacity of various authorities in the collection and exchange of statistical information, SDG monitoring through the national reporting platform can be carried out effectively. Establishing the platform makes it possible to ensure data collection and database management in line with international approaches. In addition, such a platform will facilitate data dissemination and its use by all stakeholders.

It is necessary to establish the governance structure for SDG achievement and to ensure systemic approaches to monitoring SDG implementation, which will make it possible to address SDG implementation issues systematically and comprehensively.

In order to improve the mechanism for monitoring SDG achievement for the development of the national statistical system, a number of measures have been undertaken: the transition to international accounting and statistical standards has been implemented, the system for collecting and analysing indicators from official statistical reporting, administrative and other information sources is being improved, and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 is being implemented. These processes should lead to strengthening statistical capacity related to child rights in Tajikistan.

## Data Use

There is a wide range of stakeholders who use data on children mainly with a focus on monitoring two framework documents—the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CRC, as a legally binding agreement, sets out all rights that governments must respect, protect and fulfil for all children under their jurisdiction. The SDGs are a universal and time-bound call to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity and no one is left behind<sup>22</sup>. The data-use process by users of data on children in the context of the CRC and the SDGs, as well as their roles, are described below.

- *Coordinating body on child rights.* The main body responsible for child-related issues is the Commission on the Rights of the Child under the GoRT, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and supported by the Child Rights Protection Unit of the Executive Office of the President, which serves as the secretariat. The Commission is a permanent, inter-agency and advisory body. It was established to coordinate the activities of state, non-state and international organizations and bodies that work with children in need of specific protection measures. The composition of the Commission includes 16 permanent members from state ministries and agencies and several stakeholders, with temporary representation of other organizations.
- *Among sectoral ministries,* most of which are members of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, the following bodies have a specific role in data use:

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<sup>22</sup> Fulfilling All Rights of Every Child - Linking Child Rights & The SDGs, 2022



- The Child Rights Protection Directorate of the MoES is the authorized state body on child rights protection. In accordance with the law, the Directorate, inter alia, is tasked with monitoring minimum state social standards related to indicators of a child’s life, providing information on child rights protection to the mass media, society and bodies responsible for child rights protection, and establishing and maintaining a unified state information repository on children with disabilities, orphans and children without parental care<sup>23</sup>.
- The MoEDT is the authorized state body responsible for coordinating implementation and reporting on the National Development Strategy, the Medium-Term Development Programme and the SDGs. It also serves as the secretariat of the National Development Council with 14 thematic inter-agency working groups, including the working group on monitoring and evaluation.
- *Commissioner for Child Rights* is the authorized body to ensure respect for, compliance with and promotion of children’s rights and freedoms. It conducts regular monitoring of child rights compliance in schools, child care institutions (boarding schools), closed institutions, and others. It also prepares annual reports on monitoring the situation and violations of children’s rights.
- *Civil society organizations (CSOs)* participate in the implementation of activities for children and reporting on CRC implementation<sup>24</sup>, and its Optional Protocols, and are among the main users of data on children. Through their alternative reports, CSOs highlight the challenges faced by vulnerable children, including children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law, children left behind by migrant parents, children without parental care, refugee children, and others.
- *Parliament*—various parliamentary committees, such as the Committee on Legislation and Human Rights, the Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Policy, and the Committee on Social Issues, Family and Health, can contribute to strengthening reporting on child rights in the country. However, they do not yet participate in child rights monitoring (and it appears that they do not apply a rights-based approach).
- *International community.* UN agencies, donors and international financial institutions that contribute to SDG implementation.

The Agency on Statistics conducts surveys of data users’ needs as one of the tools for assessing data quality. The most recent user survey shows that, on average, users are more satisfied with methodology, timeliness, accuracy and reliability of statistical data. Users obtain official statistics mainly from official publications of the Agency on Statistics and its website (90%), publications/websites of international organizations (21%), and official press releases/the website of the National Bank (17%). Official statistics are used for general economic information, as well as for trend analysis for the development of long-term strategies and analysis for short-term decision-making, and for conducting research. More than 70% of respondents believe that information is easily accessible, and 70% are satisfied with the speed and timeliness of official statistics dissemination.

Users of child-related data typically access information through existing publications or mainly through special requests for information. The availability of updated and user-friendly access to data and to high-quality disaggregated information on children remains difficult. Primary attention is given to the availability of data on specific vulnerable groups

<sup>23</sup> Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Protection of the Rights of the Child”, 2015.

<sup>24</sup> Alternative Report to the CRC

[https://notorture.tj.org/sites/default/files/articles/2018/files/alternative\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_ngos\\_on\\_the\\_implementation\\_of\\_the\\_convention\\_on\\_the\\_rights\\_of\\_the\\_child\\_by\\_the\\_republic\\_of\\_tajikistan.pdf](https://notorture.tj.org/sites/default/files/articles/2018/files/alternative_report_of_the_ngos_on_the_implementation_of_the_convention_on_the_rights_of_the_child_by_the_republic_of_tajikistan.pdf)



of children, such as children with disabilities, orphans and children in alternative care. However, most often users process aggregated data and equity-focused analysis is not conducted regularly. While a large amount of data is collected at the district level, there are no standard mechanisms for data sharing and use within and across sectors for local governments, service providers and civil society organizations for planning and monitoring the implementation of activities and assessing their relevance and effectiveness. Nevertheless, the culture of evidence-based decision-making is growing in the country.

## Census and survey-based data sources

Surveys provide information that is difficult to collect through administrative data. High costs and the infrequent conduct of surveys are the main challenge for regular monitoring of SDG indicators and the situation of children. Given the high variability of the situation across different districts, none of the surveys provide data at the district level due to the high costs.

Survey/developer	Period	Main Objectives
<b>Population and housing census (conducted by the Agency on Statistics with the support of various agencies).</b> <sup>25</sup>	2020	Main objectives: to provide a wide range of data on the population and housing.
	2010	
	2000	Main topics: permanent place of residence, geography and migration; demography, household and family; economy; education; ethnic composition; disability; housing.  Target population: the entire population.
<b>Demographics and Health Survey</b> <sup>26</sup> (conducted by the Agency on Statistics with the support of USAID, UNFPA and UNICEF)	2023	Ҳадафҳои асосӣ: ҷамъоварӣ намудани маълумоти
	2017	Main objectives: to collect the most recent and reliable data on the population and health issues nationwide; to provide updated information on fertility and the use of contraceptive methods, maternal and child health, child mortality, domestic violence against women, adult health issues, and knowledge and behaviour related to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted infections.
	2012	Main topics: maternal and child health, nutrition, fertility, child mortality, contraception, domestic violence against women, child discipline, knowledge and behaviour on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and other health-related issues.  Target population: household members, women of reproductive age.
<b>Multiple-Indicator Cluster Surveys</b> <sup>27</sup> (conducted by the Agency on Statistics with the support of	2005	Main objective: to provide reliable and updated information to assess the situation of children and women, as well as to identify inequalities; to establish baseline values for child-related indicators to monitor the implementation of internationally agreed goals and national sectoral policies.
	2000	

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.stat.tj/barujhatgirii-aholi-2020/>

<sup>26</sup> DHS 2017 <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/ATR18/ATR18.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS -2000-2005)// [https://www.rhsupplies.org/uploads/tx\\_rhscpublications/DOC137.pdf](https://www.rhsupplies.org/uploads/tx_rhscpublications/DOC137.pdf)



<b>UNICEF)</b>		<p>Main topics: maternal and child health; immunization; treatment of children with antibiotics; suspected pneumonia; malaria; contraception, knowledge about HIV/AIDS, transmission of infection and condom use; water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition of children and women, including breastfeeding and salt iodization; birth registration; primary school education; early marriage..</p> <p>Target population: women; children under 5 years of age.</p>
<p><b>National Nutrition Survey</b> <sup>28</sup> (conducted by the MoHSP with the support of World Bank and UNICEF)</p>	<p>2024 2016 2009</p>	<p>Main objectives: to collect reliable data and inform policymakers and decision-makers about progress in combating malnutrition and improving early child care and development in Tajikistan, so that future measures are designed in a way that ensures equal opportunities for all children to realize their full potential.</p> <p>Main topics: women's nutritional status and dietary habits; children's nutritional status, including stunting, wasting and underweight; breastfeeding and feeding of children under 2 years of age; child health and childcare; salt iodization; women's nutritional status and micronutrients; children's nutritional status and micronutrients.</p> <p>Target population: children aged 6–59 months; women of reproductive age.</p>
<p><b>Household food security and updated market information</b> <sup>29</sup> (conducted by the WFP)</p>	<p>Quarterly food security assessment</p>	<p>Main objective: to establish parameters such as the severity, scale and depth of food security among a specific population group at a given time; to conduct an in-depth analysis of food security and vulnerable people and their livelihoods; to identify aspects of vulnerability that may require assistance in the future and be targeted.</p> <p>Main topics: households in different categories of food security and food consumption; livelihood-based coping strategies; changes in income; main sources of income; average monthly prices of meat and fuel; average monthly trend in the price of the household consumption basket.</p> <p>Target population: households.</p>
<p><b>Household Budget Survey (conducted by the Agency on Statistics with the support of the GoRT and the World Bank).</b> <sup>30</sup></p>	<p>Quarterly (since 2009; improved in 2020).</p>	<p>Main objective: to determine the population's standard of living and, above all, their financial situation. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) serves as the main source for calculating the poverty rate, including child poverty. It can be a source of data for calculating the subsistence minimum and per capita income, which is not always reported in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Main topics: food consumption, non-food expenditures, housing and durable goods, water, sanitation and</p>

<sup>28</sup><https://www.unicef.org/tajikistan/media/491/file/National%20Nutrition%20Survey%20in%20Tajikistan%202016%20.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> WFP Quarterly Survey on Household Food Security and Market Update: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000141661/download/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.stat.tj/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/hisoboti-amosii-natijahoi-tahkikoti-modulii-tbh-17.05.2024-ok-tojiki.pdf>



		<p>hygiene, income not related to wages (at the household level); access to education and costs, access to health services and costs, employment, migration (at the individual level).</p> <p>In 2020, the HBS methodology switched to electronic data collection with an expanded questionnaire.</p> <p>Target population: households.</p>
<p><b>“Listening to Tajikistan” survey<sup>31</sup></b> (conducted by a national research company with the support of the World Bank)<sup>32</sup></p>	<p>Monthly since 2015</p>	<p>Main objective: to understand the severity of shocks to households and monitor their well-being over time; to produce rapid reports so that regular information is available to support government actions and social assistance measures.</p> <p>Main topics: family well-being and economic conditions, migration and remittances, jobs and income, deprivations and subjective well-being, as well as utilities and other services.</p> <p>Target population: households (telephone survey).</p>
<p><b>Labour Force Survey (conducted by the Agency on Statistics with the support of the World Bank)<sup>33</sup></b></p>	<p>2024 2016 2009 2004</p>	<p>Main objective: to produce official national statistical data on the labour force, employment and unemployment for monitoring and planning purposes.</p> <p>Main topics: employment, unemployment, including among youth and their labour underutilization, young people not in education, employment or training; labour activity, number of unemployed persons, migration, child labour (12–17 years), gender issues in the labour market, unpaid work by interns and persons undergoing vocational training, and volunteer activities.</p> <p>Target population: population aged 12–75 years.</p>
<p><b>Comprehensive survey on the situation of persons with disabilities (conducted by the Agency on Statistics)<sup>34</sup></b></p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>Main objective: to produce official national statistical data on the situation of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Main topics: age structure of the population and education level; size of the total living area; provision of housing with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, electricity, household equipment; use of information and communication technologies; access to transport and other services.</p> <p>Target population: households.</p>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/brief/listening2tajikistan>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.vsemirnyjbank.org/ru/country/tajikistan/brief/listening2tajikistan>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.stat.tj/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/tkk-2016-tojiki.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.stat.tj/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/natijai-tadkikoti-majmuii-vazi-shahsoni-mayub-va-doroi-imkoniyathoi-mahdud-18.12.2023.pdf>



## 6. MECHANISMS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DATA COLLECTION AND IMPROVING CHILD STATISTICS

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In Tajikistan, there is a centralized, coordinated system of official statistics in which the Agency on Statistics, as the central statistical authority, operates through the joint production (distribution) of statistical data and their dissemination with sectoral ministries and the National Bank of Tajikistan. In this document, administrative data refer to all information that is regularly collected and recorded both by members of the statistical system (such as the MoHSPP, the MoES, MoIA, and other sectoral ministries and their subordinate structures).

Administrative data have the main advantage of providing timely and more disaggregated data for rapid decision-making and for planning processes within a specific sector and across sectors. Administrative data are considered a major additional capacity (potential) for improving outcomes for children.

### Demography

Demographic statistics provide data on the size of the population (by sex, age and region), natural movement (births, deaths, marriage, divorce) and migration of the population (the number of persons arriving and departing as a result of internal and international migration). Demographic data are important for measuring almost all child-related SDG indicators. Information on the demographic characteristics of Tajikistan is both collected and disaggregated through various open domains and platforms at the national and subnational levels: by sex, age groups, geographic location, births, deaths, marriage, divorce, internal and external migration of the population. Since gaining independence, Tajikistan has conducted three rounds of the population and housing census. In the intercensal period, the population size is calculated annually by the Agency on Statistics by births, deaths and migration, based on continuous demographic monitoring through the civil status registration system and the recording of natural population movement.

Each year, the population size by sex and age is calculated only at the national and regional levels.

Demographic data in the country are obtained from the following sources:

- *The civil status registration system of the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan*<sup>35</sup> registers births, deaths, marriage and divorce. It is used as a source for obtaining and verifying data. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is the authorized body that leads the activities of local authorities on the registration of all civil status acts<sup>36</sup>. Since April 2019, registration in all offices and departments of civil status registration bodies has been carried out electronically.
- *Jamoats* collect a large amount of demographic data (including civil status registration and statistics on natural population movement) and household-related data in jamoat registers, mainly in rural areas. To support this initiative, development partners, including UNICEF, provided technical equipment with relevant training to all

<sup>35</sup> Civil Registry System Reform in Tajikistan Phase 1 and Phase II \_UNDP

<https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/TJK/Project%20Document%20Civil%20Registry,%20Phase%20II.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On State Registration of Civil Status Acts" (29 April 2006, No. 188). <http://mmk.tj/content/>



jamoats in the country. To date, all jamoat registers have been digitized, while work to improve their continuous connectivity to the central system of the Agency on Statistics is ongoing. To create a complete population register at the Agency on Statistics, data from the city areas of the country are still not fully available.

- *The Republican Centre for Medical Statistics and Information of the MoHSPP* registers data on births and deaths and serves as another source for verifying information on natural population movement. Data on births are registered based on the medical birth certificate.
- *The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoIA)* uses an internal digital system in which data on persons who receive national and international passports are registered. It serves as a source for obtaining migration data. This system has not yet been linked to the civil status registration system and to statistics on natural population movement.

In the process of implementing the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 (NSDS), it is envisaged that a series of surveys will be conducted within the monitoring of demographic indicators (reflecting the situation of women and children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups) and the assessment of the level and degree of progress in addressing SDG and NDS targets (paragraph 213 of the NSDS).

## Child poverty

One of the main targets of the SDG-2030 in Tajikistan is the elimination of absolute poverty and halving the poverty rate (15% by 2030)<sup>37</sup> and reducing child poverty (18% by 2025)<sup>38</sup>. A series of the country's development strategies, including the Social Protection Development Strategy of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040, reflects the SDGs and social protection priorities for achieving the SDG targets. The Strategy uses a life-cycle approach, and child-related vulnerabilities and interventions are reflected in it clearly and explicitly.

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<sup>37</sup> NDS 2020

<sup>38</sup> MTDP 2021-2025. Action Plan



## Set of SDG indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the strategic direction of activities within the “Child poverty” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

Child-related SDG indicators	Data responsible authority	Data source	SDG target-setting	Linkage with the country's strategic document
1.1.1 Children living below the international poverty line	Agency on Statistics	Household Budget Survey	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere	NDS 2030
1.2.1 Children living below the national poverty line	Agency on Statistics	Household Budget Survey	By 2030, at least halve the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	NDS 2030 SPDS 2040
1.2.2 Children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) (%)	Agency on Statistics	There is a need for sustainable data collection and for developing methodology		
1.3.1 Proportion of children covered by social protection systems	MoHSPP	There is a need for sustainable and comprehensive data collection	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including price reductions, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	SPDS 2040
(1.5.1 and 11.5.1) Number of children dead, missing and directly affected persons per 100,000 population (under 18 years of age), attributed to disasters	Committee for Emergency Situations Agency on Statistics	There is a need to establish a sustainable data base	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters	NDS 2030 SPDS 2040 National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019–2030
1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	Ministry of Finance	There is a need for sustainable data collection	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for implementing programmes and	NEDS 2030 NHS 2030 SPDS 2040



				policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
1.b.1 Proportion of current and capital government expenditure in sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups of the population	Ministry of Finance	There is a need for sustainable data collection	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions	NDS 2030

The main data sources in the social protection sector include the following:

- National Social Protection Registry* – a unified centralized electronic information management system and database, developed by the Government initially with financial support from the European Union and later the World Bank<sup>39</sup> within the Targeted Social Assistance Programme. Targeted social assistance is the Government’s cash assistance programme designed to provide financial support to households living below the poverty line. Since its establishment, targeted social assistance has gradually replaced compensation payments, and in 2020 it was fully rolled out in all 68 districts. The information management system was designed to register recipients of targeted social assistance. Data collection and registration begin at the jamoat level. Information on beneficiaries is entered into the system at the district level and aggregated at the national level. Eligible beneficiaries receive four cash transfers over one year, i.e., one payment each quarter. After one year, they must reapply to receive targeted social assistance. In addition to the database on recipients of targeted social assistance, the system includes a special module containing data on persons with disabilities and recipients of emergency payments (during COVID-19). The system can produce detailed disaggregated data on the number of female-headed households, orphan children, age groups, the number of children in a household, and others. The system has the capacity to incorporate data and develop modules on other types of vulnerabilities.
- Agency for Social Insurance and Pensions under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (ASIP)* maintains and records data in its database on social insurance programmes (contributory), as well as disability pensions and social pension payments (non-contributory). The database includes detailed information on recipients of old-age pensions, disability pensions, insurance pensions, and children receiving pensions due to the loss of a breadwinner. In order to calculate the total amount of social payments, ASIP collects data on recipients and the amount of payments related to maternity and childbirth benefits, sick leave benefits, family benefits, and unemployment benefits. However, the level of data disaggregation is limited to the total target population and amounts at the district level. The ASIP database has not yet been digitized and uses a paper-based data entry system.

<sup>39</sup> Tajikistan-Social-Safety-Net-Strengthening-Project <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/826491612375004947/pdf>



## Strategic directions of activities to ensure data availability and quality within the “Child poverty” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

<b>SDG indicator</b>	1.2.1 ; 1.2.2
<b>Main tasks</b>	Establishing a permanent national system for monitoring child poverty
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Use the Household Budget Survey (HBS) to produce continuous disaggregated statistical data and analytical products for monitoring children’s monetary poverty  Explore the possibilities of the HBS, the “Listening to Tajikistan” survey and the DHS to conduct secondary analysis and develop a national methodology for monitoring multidimensional child poverty and calculating this indicator for the Republic of Tajikistan..
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, MoEDT
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF, WB
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Medium

### Health and nutrition consumption

A series of the country’s development strategies, including the National Health Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030<sup>40</sup> (NHS 2030), defines the priority areas, goals and objectives of the country’s health sector with a focus on the SDGs.

### Set of SDG indicators for monitoring the strategic direction of activities within the “Health and nutrition consumption” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

Child-related SDG indicators	Data responsible authority	Data source	SDG target-setting	Linkage with the country’s strategic document
2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including by 2025, achieve the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	NDS 2030 NHS 2030

<sup>40</sup> NHS 2030, <https://moh.tj/ru/natsionalnye-strategii/>



2.2.2 Prevalence of overweight and wasting among children under 5 years of age	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023		NDS 2030 NHS 2030
2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia among women aged 15–49 years, by pregnancy status (percent)	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023		
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	There is a need for sustainable data collection	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.	NDS 2030 NHS 2030
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	MoHSPP / Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023		
3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	MoHSPP / Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.	NDS 2030 NHS 2030
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	MoHSPP / Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023		
3.3.1 New HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	There is a need for sustainable and comprehensive data collection based on HMIS and surveys	By 2030, end the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.	NDS 2030 NHS 2030
3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	There is a need to establish a sustainable data base.		
3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	State Traffic Safety Inspectorate of the MoIA	There is a need to establish a sustainable data base.	The number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents should be reduced by half	NDS 2030



3.7.2. Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Agency on Statistics/ Civil Status Acts Directorate of the MoJ	DHS 2023	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	NDS 2030 NHS 2030
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (antenatal care)	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	NDS 2030 NHS 2030

Child health and nutrition are the foundation for growth and development throughout life. The Strategy sets the objective of improving the information management system and expanding digital systems and telemedicine in the health and social protection sector.

- *The Republican Centre for Medical Statistics and Information* of the MoHSPP is the main institution for collecting and disseminating health data at the national and subnational levels through its website. It works with primary registration and reporting data from health facilities, as well as rapid data on reproductive health, infectious diseases (monthly), quarterly reports on HIV/AIDS, and semi-annual reports on certain diseases, which are prepared by the relevant institutions of the MoHSPP, as described below.
- *The Health Management Information System (HMIS)*, managed by the Republican Centre for Medical Statistics and Information (RCMSI), uses DHIS2 – an open-source web platform for data entry, data analysis and reporting<sup>41</sup>. HMIS data are widely used by the country's departments and institutions in the development of health-related strategies, reforms, programmes and projects. RCMSI also provides paper-based data<sup>42</sup> to the Agency on Statistics on the health status of the population, including maternal and child health, HIV, reproductive health, immunization; the material and technical condition of health facilities; and persons with disabilities. The HMIS produces administrative data on several child-related SDG indicators and can serve as an alternative source for regular and detailed monitoring, complementing the main survey-based data source.
- *The National Reproductive Health Centre* serves as the main institution for collecting, registering and maintaining data on reproductive health, including maternal and adolescent health, family planning, needs for and use of contraceptives, prevention of early pregnancy, and HIV testing among pregnant women. Data are mainly collected in paper forms. In centres supported by UNICEF, there is an independent electronic system for entering and storing data on youth health services. Since 2022, an electronic perinatal referral system has been piloted in three districts.

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.epos30.de/content/tajikistan-health-information-system-launched-nationwide>

<sup>42</sup> [www.stat.tj](http://www.stat.tj)



- *The Republican Centre for HIV Prevention and Control*<sup>43</sup> is the main source of administrative data on HIV infection and AIDS. In compliance with confidentiality protocols, it collects electronic data on the status and prevalence of HIV infection and AIDS, counselling and treatment among the country's population, including children, pregnant women and migrants.
- *The Republican Immunoprophylaxis Centre (RIC)* collects detailed data on routine/planned immunization, as well as mass immunization in emergencies. Existing data are disaggregated by regions, sex and main age categories. The data system of the RIC operates mainly in paper forms. Within the system, facilities report to district health centres using paper forms, where the data are entered into the system. In 2022, with the support of development partners, an independent electronic registration system for people receiving the COVID-19 vaccine was also introduced in the country. In 2023, UNICEF provides technical support to the RIC to assess digital tools and systems currently used for reporting from the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to understand their functionality, data quality and interoperability. Based on the final assessment results, a roadmap for the digitalization of the National Immunization Programme will be developed.
- *Most SDG indicators related to health and nutrition consumption* are mainly monitored based on household surveys, such as Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, DHS and micronutrient surveys. Through reporting forms or publications on nutrition-related indicators, little administrative data are available, although data are collected by health facilities. For example, there is no continuous and reliable reporting on children and women with anaemia or on anthropometric status (e.g., wasting, stunting). However, children's height and weight are recorded in individual health records through growth monitoring. Increased technical capacity to collect growth-related data and calculate SDG-related anthropometric indicators is needed.
- Within the framework of the *Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)* programme, implemented by the MoHSPP with UNICEF support, data on the effectiveness of treatment of children with acute malnutrition are collected and maintained. Data are collected by health facilities through paper forms, which are consolidated at the district (and oblast) level and compiled by the Republican Scientific and Clinical Centre of Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery. Integrating paper-based reporting forms with HMIS is very important. The IMAM protocol defines the role of health workers and oblast and district health authorities in reporting. In this process, the availability of sufficient skills to use Excel among staff at the lower level is very important, which can facilitate data collection and reporting. In addition, procedures for two-way communication or verification or targeted use of collected data at the national or subnational level should be given greater consideration.

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<sup>43</sup> Official website of the Republican Centre for HIV Prevention and Control: [http://nac.tj/oidi\\_vnmo/](http://nac.tj/oidi_vnmo/)



## Strategic directions of activities to ensure data availability and quality within the “Health and nutrition consumption” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

<b>SDG indicator</b>	2.2.1; 2.2.2 (2.2.3)
<b>Main tasks</b>	Establishing a high-frequency data system for calculating child-related indicators on stunting, overweight and wasting among children under 5 years of age, and anaemia among women.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Training and supporting the use of administrative data from health facilities on growth monitoring and antenatal care to collect data on stunting, overweight and wasting among children under 5 years of age, and anaemia among women. Integrating nutrition-related modules into DHS 2 and other new surveys.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoHSPP; Agency on Statistics
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Significant
<b>SDG indicator</b>	2.2.1; 2.2.2 (2.2.3)
<b>Main tasks</b>	Ensuring systematic data collection, analysis and reporting on children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Improving the literacy level and analytical capacity of health workers, district/regional health authorities, and the Republican Scientific and Clinical Centre of Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery in data collection and analysis using unified reporting forms and analytical software.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoHSPP
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate
<b>SDG indicator</b>	3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.2; 3.6.1
<b>Main tasks</b>	Broad and adequate use of HMIS data, especially for regular monitoring of child-related SDG indicators at the national and subnational levels.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Improve the use of available data at the national and subnational levels through interactive visualization and statistical data dissemination platforms. Strengthen the administrative and human resource capacity of the MoHSPP of the Republic of Tajikistan to use digital platforms.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoHSPP, Agency on Statistics
<b>Partner</b>	WHO



<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate
<b>SDG indicator</b>	3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.2; 3.6.1
<b>Main tasks</b>	<p>Developing disaggregated data on health and mental health issues among children and adolescents – data on adolescents with severe mental health problems should become available.</p> <p>Sufficient information and systematic analysis of existing services should be available.</p>
<b>Proposed actions</b>	<p>Strengthening the monitoring system by improving forms, guidelines and regulatory protocols for the collection, analysis and regular reporting of data on health and mental health issues among children and adolescents.</p> <p>Assessing, strengthening and expanding the electronic perinatal registry for the referral system based on lessons learned from pilot initiatives.</p> <p>Exploring the possibilities of introducing a new UNICEF mental health module within MICS or other relevant household surveys..</p>
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoHSPP
<b>Partner</b>	Development partners
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate

## Quality education and learning

The NEDS 2030 defines medium-term and long-term goals, as well as priority areas for education development, including a set of SDG 4 indicators.

### Set of SDG indicators for monitoring the strategic direction of activities within the “Quality education and development” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

Child-related SDG indicators	Data responsible authority	Data source	SDG target-setting	Linkage with the country’s strategic document
4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics at the end of lower secondary school	MoES	There is a need for sustainable data collection	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	NDS 2030 NEDS 2030
4.1.2 Completion rate: (a) primary education; (b) lower secondary education; (c) upper secondary education	MoES	There is a need for sustainable data collection		



4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being	MoES/ Agency on Statistics	There is a need for sustainable data collection	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	NDS 2030 NEDS 2030
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	MoES/ Agency on Statistics	There is a need for sustainable and comprehensive data collection based on EMIS and surveys		
4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months	MoES	There is a need to establish a sustainable database	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	NDS 2030 NEDS 2030
4.4.1 Percentage of girls and boys who have achieved at least one of nine specified computer-related activities in the last 3 months	MoES	There is a need for sustainable data collection	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	NDS 2030 NEDS 2030
4.5.1. Parity indices in education: (a) sex; (b) wealth; (c) location; (d) disability status	Agency on Statistics / MoES	There is a need for sustainable data collection	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	NDS 2030 NEDS 2030
4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definition)	MoES	There is a need for sustainable and comprehensive data collection based on EMIS and surveys.	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	NDS 2030 NEDS 2030



In recent years, the importance of education data has increased due to the growing demand for evidence-based sectoral policy development and education planning to achieve national and global education goals. The MoES is responsible for collecting, transmitting, assessing, verifying and disseminating statistical data in the education sector. In 2007, the MoES established the Education Management Information System (EMIS), which provides a common platform for the effective management of data for various education stakeholders. This system enables the MoES to collect and disaggregate education data by sex, including on vulnerable children and children with special needs at all levels of education. Overall, significant progress has been made in recent years in improving the data management system.

The system operates offline. School data are entered into the system and transmitted to the MoES level for further processing. The GoRT has undertaken an initiative to strengthen EMIS or broader education data management practices to improve national capacity to collect, manage and use education data in order to achieve quality and inclusive education and learning.

The system serves as an internal digital platform for collecting, storing and managing education data. Using a Microsoft platform, EMIS collects basic demographic and education data on students and teachers at an aggregate level. In Tajikistan, EMIS does not collect data on each individual student, either at the primary/secondary education level or at the preschool education level. The availability of such student-level data could help education authorities, schools and teachers better understand and meet the learning needs of students in the country.

EMIS data are collected annually at the school level through a census form, and then transmitted through district and oblast education departments to the national level. The system can produce basic tables and retrieve data from the system for descriptive analysis, data tabulation and data linkages. The system also enables easier data collection and disaggregation and the production of information in real time. However, the results of this analysis are used only to produce annual statistical yearbooks, which are published each year<sup>44</sup>.

EMIS can generate data for child-related SDG indicators based on administrative systems (4.2.2 and 4.a.1), with attention to their quality and completeness. A national survey using the Early Grade Reading Assessment and the Early Grade Mathematics Assessment was conducted under a USAID project<sup>45</sup>; integrating learning outcomes assessment at all levels of education into the information system for SDG monitoring is very important.

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<sup>44</sup> Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER). Tajikistan Country Report. WB, 2017.

<sup>45</sup> USAID Learn Together Activity. Baseline Summary Report: Reading Mathematics and Social Emotional Learning. December 2022



## Strategic directions of activities to ensure data availability and quality within the “Quality education and development” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

<b>SDG indicator</b>	4.1.1
<b>Main tasks</b>	Strengthening the EMIS to collect data on SDG 4, in particular on the quality of education and learning outcomes.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	<p>Establishing systematic data collection on learning outcomes (e.g., Early Grade Reading Assessment/Early Grade Mathematics Assessment surveys in schools) and improving access to data, including for SDG monitoring.</p> <p>Developing and operationalizing additional EMIS modules related to SDG 4 indicators, to enable effective integration of internal efficiency and performance indicators (e.g., learning outcomes, teacher professional development, attendance, etc.). Reviewing sex-disaggregated data on disability and inclusion to ensure its regular collection (with particular attention to disability data).</p> <p>Exploring the possibility of incorporating data on non-formal education and out-of-school children, taking cost-effectiveness into account</p>
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoES
<b>Partner</b>	UNESCO, USAID, UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Significant
<b>SDG indicator</b>	4.2.2; 4.5.1; 4.a.1
<b>Main tasks</b>	Ensuring quality, accessibility and adequate use of EMIS administrative data for monitoring education-related SDG indicators and the NDS/MTDP. EMIS data are comprehensive and should include internal and external efficiency indicators of sectoral statistical data (e.g., student attendance, dropout, learning outcomes, etc.) or links to population statistics.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	<p>Improving the quality and accessibility of disaggregated information on education-related SDG indicators produced based on administrative data.</p> <p>Developing interactive data dashboards for public use.</p> <p>Strengthening the quality/reliability of annual statistical reports and improving users' access to sectoral statistical data..</p>
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoES; MoEDT
<b>Partner</b>	UNESCO, UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate



<b>SDG indicator</b>	4.2.1
<b>Main tasks</b>	Establishing an effective national primary data system on child development and ownership of this indicator due to its cross-sectoral nature.  Up-to-date data on early childhood development and data on parenting should be available..
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Exploring ways to integrate the Early Childhood Development Index module and other early childhood development indicators into major household surveys.  Planning and conducting Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys.  Improving the alignment of EMIS indicators and key performance indicators within the NEDS 2030 results framework with the SDGs.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoES; MoHSPP; Agency on Statistics
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Significant

<b>SDG indicator</b>	4.2.1
<b>Main tasks</b>	Establishing a system/mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of sectoral strategies.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Strengthening the planning of key education sector surveys and data collection initiatives in relation to sectoral strategies and programmes.  Establishing a monitoring and evaluation system for education sector strategies and programmes that are aligned with the SDGs and the CRC.  Establishing mechanisms for data verification and validation.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoES
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF, (GPE)
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate

## Gender equality

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women occupies an important place within the mandate of the GoRT. The Government's efforts to protect the equal rights of women and girls, combat discrimination, and change gender roles and stereotypical perceptions that lead to inequality and exclusion are clearly and explicitly reflected in national legislation, including within the NDS 2030 and the National Strategy to Enhance the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2030 (NSERW 2021-2030).



## Set of SDG indicators for monitoring the strategic direction of activities within the “Gender equality” sector

Child-related SDG indicators	Data responsible authority	Data source	SDG target-setting	Linkage with the country's strategic document
5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Agency on Statistics	DHS, 2023	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	NDS 2030
5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Agency on Statistics	There is a need for sustainable data collection		
5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Agency on Statistics	DHS, 2023	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as early and forced marriage.	NDS 2030
5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–19 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	Agency on Statistics	DHS, 2023	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	NDS 2030

Administrative gender-related data, as a cross-cutting component, are considered across all sectors reviewed, including the demographic, health, education, labour, social protection and justice sectors. Overall, all administrative systems provide sex-disaggregated data. There are specific publications that reflect gender statistics<sup>46</sup>.

Of the three child-related SDG5 indicators, one indicator on child marriage has been included in the national strategic document. The main source of child-related SDG indicators on gender equality is household surveys. Efforts are being mobilized to improve access to survey data on one of the SDG indicators, 5.2.2 “Sexual violence by others”.

<sup>46</sup> <https://stat.tj/tj/program-on-the-development-of-gender-statistics>



## Clean water and sanitation

Water, sanitation and hygiene in communities, households, schools, health facilities and other settings are important to ensure quality of life and prevent epidemics and communicable diseases. The water sector development goals under the National Water Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040 are linked to providing the population of Tajikistan with quality drinking water and wastewater disposal.

### Set of SDG indicators for monitoring the strategic direction of activities within the “Clean water and sanitation” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

Child-related SDG indicators	Data responsible authority	Data source	SDG target-setting	Linkage with the country’s strategic document
1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services (improved drinking water sources)	Agency on Statistics	Joint Monitoring Program (JMP)	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, especially the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, natural resources and appropriate new technologies.	National Water Strategy of the 2040
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	MoHSPP Agency on Statistics	JMP	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	National Water Strategy of the 2040
6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) hand-washing facilities with soap and water	MoHSPP/ Agency on Statistics	JMP	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	National Water Strategy of the 2040

Ensuring access to reliable and regular administrative data to determine the proportion of the population in relation to the use of drinking water, basic sanitation services, safely managed drinking water, safely managed sanitation services, and handwashing facilities with soap and water is very important. Comprehensive information in health-related publications on water, sanitation and hygiene in health facilities should be available. In this process, EMIS provides some information on the type of water supply and sanitation facilities in schools.

*The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP – Joint Monitoring Programme)*<sup>47</sup>, led by the WHO/UNICEF, maintains an extensive global database based on household survey data. The Programme has become the leading source of comparable assessments of progress in the area of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). It is used to monitor the SDG targets related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

<sup>47</sup> Joint Monitoring Plan for Tajikistan, <https://washdata.org/data/country/TJK/household/download>



## Strategic directions of activities to ensure data availability and quality within the “Clean water and sanitation” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

<b>SDG indicator</b>	
<b>Main tasks</b>	Ensuring cross-sectoral collaboration and administrative data systems to determine the proportion of the population using drinking water, basic sanitation services, and water supply and hygiene in health and education facilities.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Supporting the development of unified or interoperable administrative data systems (SUE “Housing and Communal Services”, HMIS, EMIS, HBS, TSA) that collect data on indicators related to water, sanitation and hygiene in households, health facilities and schools.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MEWR, SUE “Housing and Communal Services”
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF, WB
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	High
<b>SDG indicator</b>	1.4.1; 6.2.1; 6.2.2
<b>Main tasks</b>	Enhancing the completeness of survey data on water, sanitation and hygiene indicators, including the use of safely managed drinking water services and safely managed sanitation services (handwashing facilities with soap and water).
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Exploring the possibilities of integrating new water quality modules into household surveys (water, sanitation and hygiene or MICS, HBS).
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MEWR, SUE “Housing and Communal Services”, Agency on Statistics
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Significant

### Decent work

Within the implementation of the “Concept for the Development of Productive Employment in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040”, efforts are being made to reduce the level of child labour.



## Set of SDG indicators for monitoring the strategic direction of activities within the “Decent work” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

Child-related SDG indicators	Data responsible authority	Data source	SDG target-setting	Linkage with the country’s strategic document
8.6. Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	MoLMEP, Agency on Statistics	Labour Force Survey, 2024	Reducing the proportion of youth who are not in employment, education or training.	NDS 2030 Concept for the Development of Productive Employment 2040
8.7.1 Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	MoLMEP/ Agency on Statistics	Labour Force Survey, 2024	Taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.	NDS 2030 Concept for the Development of Productive Employment 2040

MoLMEP also collects data on employment/unemployment – those engaged in the labour market and employment – as well as on officially registered unemployed persons by region, sex and age (under 18; 18–24 years; 25–29 years), and level of education (higher, secondary and initial vocational). The MoLMEP also collects data on migration and vocational education.

### Strategic directions of activities to ensure data availability and quality within the “Decent work” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

<b>SDG indicator</b>	8.6.1; (4.3.1) (4.4.1)
<b>Main tasks</b>	Conducting regular household surveys or establishing an administrative information system to generate data for monitoring youth who are not in education, employment or training.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Establishing cross-sectoral collaboration to explore opportunities to produce data on youth who are not in education, employment or training, including based on the Household Budget Survey.  Exploring opportunities to establish a management information system in the employment sector (e.g., a labour market information analysis system).
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoLMEP, Agency on Statistics
<b>Partner</b>	EU, ILO, UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	High



<b>SDG indicator</b>	8.6.1; (4.3.1) (4.4.1)
<b>Main tasks</b>	Establishing a regular statistical data system on child labour.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Mobilizing resources and planning MICS or integrating a child labour module into major household surveys, such as the Labour Force Survey, or conducting a child labour survey.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoLMEP
<b>Partner</b>	EU, ILO, UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	Significant

## Justice for children

### Violence against children

In the country, building on the measures implemented under the State Programme on the Prevention of Domestic Violence in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2014–2023, the necessary foundation is being formed to strengthen mechanisms for preventing domestic violence; combating crime, especially factors of domestic violence; registering individual warnings on preventing anti-social actions, inappropriate acts and immoral behaviour in the family; and ensuring social and legal protection of citizens, including children. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommends that the country establish reporting mechanisms on the use of corporal punishment in all settings. It also recommends that investigations, administrative cases and court proceedings on all cases of violence against children be initiated promptly, and that data on cases and their outcomes be collected and disaggregated. The Committee on Women and Family Affairs, the MoIA, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Supreme Court have various internal paper-based data systems, which provides the necessary basis to ensure coordination in this area. Regarding the sexual exploitation of children, the minimum age of consensual sexual intercourse in Tajikistan is 16 years. Sufficient paper-based administrative data on such cases should be available.

### Children in conflict with the law

The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted, in its 2017 Concluding Observations, concern that disaggregated data on children in conflict with the criminal justice system are not regularly collected and published. The Committee recommends that Tajikistan collect and publish disaggregated data — including by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnicity and socio-economic background — on children in conflict with the criminal justice system. All existing data systems are internal and paper-based and can be accessed through an official request. More extensive information, for example on persons who have committed crimes, should be available in the past five years of the Agency on Statistics statistics, disaggregated by sex and pre-defined age categories (14–15 years, 16–17 years, 18–24 years and 25–29 years). A recently approved Instruction on the mechanism for collecting statistical data on children in conflict with the law, witnesses and victims of crime and violence provides for establishing a unified database and defines procedures for cooperation among authorities and organizations within the juvenile justice



system, including the Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court, the MoJ, the MoIA, MoES, the MoHSPP, and the MoLMEP.<sup>48</sup>

### Birth registration and stateless children

Birth registration provides individuals with documentary evidence needed for recognition of legal identity, family relations and citizenship. Legislation<sup>49</sup> provides for introducing an electronic civil registration system, as well as establishing and maintaining an electronic civil registration database. While the main data source for SDG reporting related to birth registration comes from national household surveys (e.g., DHS), civil registration and vital statistics provide data on the number of children who have received birth certificates (early and late registration). Sometimes issuing birth certificates to children is difficult due to the absence of parents' passports. Official statistics on stateless children (or persons) should be developed in the country<sup>50</sup>.

### Set of SDG indicators for monitoring the strategic direction of activities within the "Justice" sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

Child-related SDG indicators	Data responsible authority	Data source	SDG target-setting	Linkage with the country's strategic document
16.1.1 Number of victims (under 18 years) of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	MoIA	There is a need to establish a sustainable database	All forms of violence and related deaths must be reduced everywhere.	NDS 2030 National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights
16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	Agency on Statistics	DHS 2023	Abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children must be ended.	NDS 2030 National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights
16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	Agency on Statistics	There is a need to develop a methodology and ensure sustainable data collection		NDS 2030 National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights
16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil registration authority.	MoJ	DHS 2023	By 2030, legal identity must be provided for all, including birth registration.	NDS 2030 National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights

<sup>48</sup> The Instruction on the mechanism for collecting data on children in conflict with the law, witnesses and victims was approved by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on 26 August 2022, No. 417.

<sup>49</sup> Law No. 1637 "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Law 'On State Registration of Civil Status Acts'" was adopted on 19 July 2019

<sup>50</sup> Voluntary National Review, Tajikistan, 2023



17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	Communication Service	DHS, 2023 (only for women)	Fully operationalizing the technology bank and the mechanism for strengthening innovation capacity and the use of enabling technologies, including information and communications technologies.	NDS 2030
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### Strategic directions of activities to ensure data availability and quality within the “Birth registration and stateless children” sector in the Republic of Tajikistan

<b>SDG indicator</b>	
<b>Main tasks</b>	Developing disaggregated data on children in conflict with the law.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Supporting resource mobilization and implementation of the data collection mechanism on children in conflict with the law, witnesses and victims of crime and violence. Updating data collection systems and reporting forms to ensure appropriate data disaggregation.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Prosecutor General’s Office, MoIA, Supreme Court
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	High

<b>SDG indicator</b>	16.2.1
<b>Main tasks</b>	Developing a regular data system for monitoring violence against children.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Including a module on child discipline in the next DHS. Establishing data collection and reporting systems on responsive feedback mechanisms in schools.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, MoES, Committee on Women and Family Affairs
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Low



<b>SDG indicator</b>	16.2.3
<b>Main tasks</b>	Developing a national primary data system on sexual violence up to the age of 18.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Following up discussions on developing and introducing a data collection methodology and consolidating existing or potential efforts for data collection.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, Committee on Women and Family Affairs, MoIA, Supreme Court
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF, UNFPA
<b>Need</b>	Low
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate

<b>SDG indicator</b>	(16.9.1)
<b>Main tasks</b>	Developing a survey-based data system on children (aged 5–17 years) whose births have not been registered. Lack of regular data on children whose births have not been registered, especially vulnerable children.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Reviewing existing data systems to develop proxy indicators for monitoring birth registration coverage, with a focus on the most vulnerable children (remote areas, minorities, children with disabilities).  Reviewing administrative data on birth registration by age, which enables a detailed analysis of challenges..
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoJ
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Low

## “Leaving no one behind”

Leaving no one behind is the key principle the global Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and also a priority area of action in the country. Integrating the SDGs into programme and policy documents provides the basis for a comprehensive transition of national governance towards SDG-oriented policymaking. The leaving no one behind agenda pushes governments and partners to look beyond aggregate progress and ask who is still excluded, especially marginalized groups whose experiences are not captured by routine monitoring frameworks.

The SDGs must be inclusive: they must be achieved for all children regardless of location, income or sex. For this reason, particular attention is given to ensuring disaggregated data to monitor the situation of vulnerable population groups. This is achieved through strengthening official statistical observations, conducting new surveys, and active collaboration with other government institutions and international organizations.

Commitment to implementing the SDGs means that the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda must be achieved for all segments of society, including the most vulnerable



groups. Children – especially those in vulnerable situations – are entitled, under the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, to special state protection and care, with the aim of ensuring the protection of every child’s rights. In many cases, administrative data on vulnerable children are not available from a single institution. They are collected by different institutions, and the information is published through sectoral statistical compilations.

### **Children with disabilities**

Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States Parties to take all necessary measures to ensure that children with disabilities, on an equal basis with other children, can fully enjoy all fundamental human rights and freedoms. In this context, the collection of statistical data must be appropriately organized.

Estimating the number of children with disabilities is one of the most important steps for ensuring an effective policy response to support children with disabilities and their families.

To obtain reliable and internationally comparable statistics on the number of children with disabilities, it is essential to consistently apply effective methods for identifying such children.

The Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017) point to the lack of reliable data on children with disabilities, which hinders the provision and assessment of services for them. The Committee recommends that disaggregated data on children with disabilities be collected on a regular basis, which is necessary for introducing appropriate policies and strategic programmes for these children. In Tajikistan, administrative data cover only those children whose disability has been officially registered (i.e., they have a disability certificate) and who receive state benefits. There are many reasons why some children with disabilities are not registered, including the costly and lengthy medical assessment process and issuance of a disability certificate; parents’ reluctance due to potential stigma and discrimination; low awareness; and late detection of autism or other conditions. Children with disabilities who are not registered are often not reflected in official statistics and remain outside the scope of the state social protection system.

Overall, it is critical to establish the collection of three types of indicators on children with disabilities:

- Population-based indicators on the number of children with disabilities, derived from administrative sources (based on medical diagnoses or clinical reporting) and household surveys;
- Service-based indicators—counts of children with disabilities who are entitled to specific services and statistical information on service utilization, which are not designed to measure prevalence at the population level;
- Outcome indicators that are most relevant for children with disabilities—health status and access to services, school attendance, participation in community life, labour and living conditions, including poverty, material deprivation and housing conditions.

### **Children affected by migration**

MoLMEP compiles migration statistics starting from age 18, as only persons who have reached the age of majority (18) can be registered as labour migrants in receiving



countries<sup>51</sup>. Effective systems for identifying and registering migrant households need to be developed. A reliable tracking system would generate accurate information on the number of affected households, their demographic composition and specific needs. This, in turn, would strengthen the evidence base for designing and delivering targeted sectoral policies, measures and services that respond to the needs of these households. Most quantitative empirical research on children with disabilities relies on data from standard household surveys. Large-scale national household surveys should include sufficient information on children affected by migration.

### **Children in alternative care and adoption**

Under the legislation of the RT and the approved procedures, guardianship and trusteeship authorities identify children deprived of parental care and maintain records on them. Statistical registration of children deprived of parental care is based on entries in the primary registration logbook for such children. Consolidated statistical reporting on the number of children deprived of parental care is produced annually by guardianship and trusteeship bodies of the executive authorities of Mountaineous-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (MBAR), the regions, Dushanbe city, and cities and districts, and is submitted to the authorized state body responsible for the protection of children's rights and to the statistical authorities in the child's place of residence.

Over the past decade, Tajikistan has improved access to statistical data on children in alternative care through the regional TransMonEE initiative. UNICEF supported the Agency on Statistics in developing and introducing a new statistical reporting form on children deprived of parental care and adopted children, which serves as one of the reporting sources for the TransMonEE regional databases on the family environment. Accordingly, to strengthen the collection of statistical data and improve mechanisms for generating disaggregated information (by sex, age, disability and children's social status, including orphaned children and children without parental care), the Agency on Statistics, in collaboration with UNICEF, revised and approved statistical reporting form No. 103-RIK, "Report on the number of children and adolescents deprived of parental care". Under the "Modernization of the National Statistical System in Tajikistan" project, the Agency on Statistics will fully transition the collection of form 103-RIK and other statistical reporting forms to an electronic format in 2024.

Administrative data on children in alternative care are collected by the MoES, MoHSPP, and the MoLMEP. Data collection, processing, consolidation and submission by institutions under MoHSPP and MoLMEP are paper-based, and an electronic database for this group of children has not been established in these institutions.

Data collected on adopted children are based on information from the MoJ. The MoJ register records the fact of adoption registration, while the Supreme Court provides information on court decisions on adoption, which is considered more accurate. Disaggregated data (by sex, age, disability, and other characteristics) should be collected.

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<sup>51</sup> The 2020 population census round in the CIS region: outcomes, challenges, prospects: [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/WS\\_CISStat\\_Zbarskaya\\_ENG.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/WS_CISStat_Zbarskaya_ENG.pdf)



## Strategic directions to improve the availability and quality of data in the area of “Vulnerable children” in Tajikistan

<b>Main tasks</b>	Establish an interoperable national system for collecting comprehensive data on children in alternative care.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	<p>Conduct a more in-depth analysis of data on children in alternative care in line with international methodologies, and develop specific action plans to improve the data collection system.</p> <p>Publish and ensure access to the new tools, including: the updated statistical reporting form No. 103-RIK with its guidance; the primary registration logbook for children deprived of parental care; and the registration logbook for children deprived of parental care and placed in family-based care (guardianship, trusteeship and adoption) for guardianship and trusteeship authorities and child rights commissions in the cities and districts of the republic.</p> <p>Deliver training activities on the use of the new forms and on the use of data for the key staff of child rights commissions and relevant authorities in the cities and districts of the republic.</p> <p>Based on the registration logbooks for children deprived of parental care, develop and introduce an electronic database on orphaned children, children deprived of parental care, and their placement.</p> <p>Develop and approve a unified statistical reporting form on children residing in boarding-type institutions (disaggregated by sex, age, disability, etc.) for the state bodies responsible for boarding-type institutions under their authority; and develop and approve guidance on data compilation and completion of the statistical reporting form for responsible staff in the relevant ministries, including the indicator metadata.</p> <p>Strengthen coordination of the statistical data collection mechanism in boarding institutions and, building on the administrative data collection mechanism, develop an integrated database on children raised in boarding-type institutions.</p>
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, MoES, MoHSPP, MoLMEP
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; USAID
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Low
<b>Main tasks</b>	Establish a unified national information repository on vulnerable children (including children with disabilities and orphaned children).
<b>Proposed actions</b>	<p>Assess the feasibility of linking existing systems related to vulnerable children and identify data gaps.</p> <p>Set up a single integrated database on vulnerable children (with the MoES mandated as the responsible authority).</p>
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoES
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; World Bank
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	High



<b>Main tasks</b>	Conduct a dedicated study on children with disabilities / functional difficulties.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Explore options for implementing a MICS or integrating the Child Functioning Module into relevant household surveys.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	MoHSPP, MoES
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; JICA
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate to significant

## 7. RATIONALE FOR PRIORITY ACTIONS TO IMPROVE CHILD-RELATED STATISTICS

Finally, it is important overall to review the key issues and the necessary cross-sectoral measures to improve data for children, in order to better monitor the situation of children, taking into account the country's commitments under the SDGs and the CRC, and to accelerate the achievement of child-related outcomes.

In this process, priorities for immediate actions, as well as priority long-term investments in child-related data at both national and subnational levels, should be clearly reflected.

### Consolidated priority directions to ensure the availability and quality of child-related data in Tajikistan

<b>Main tasks</b>	Ensuring appropriate coordination of the different information systems established within sectoral ministries and agencies for the production and provision of data.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Promoting coordination within and across existing systems (including DHIS2/HMIS, EMIS, TSA, HBS, etc.).  Exploring opportunities to link various data systems into a single integrated system, particularly in relation to birth registration, children in alternative care, children with disabilities, and children in contact with the law.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, all relevant ministries and agencies
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; UN agencies; international financial institutions
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	High



<b>Main tasks</b>	Establishing a comprehensive approach to ensuring the quality of the data produced. Inconsistent data disaggregation across different information systems.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Establishing a Working Group or Sub-Working Group on data for children. Developing a Data Quality Assurance Framework for administrative data and implementing it across other sectors. Harmonizing data disaggregation (age groups, geographic location) across different data systems, with particular emphasis on age and geographic disaggregation.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, relevant ministries and agencies.
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; World Bank
<b>Need</b>	Moderate
<b>Resource costs</b>	Low

<b>Main tasks</b>	Ensuring broad access to child-related data for users, including access to microdata for secondary analysis.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Establishing a national data platform on the status of children's rights, including through integrating data into national data dissemination platforms. Promoting increased demand for, and use of, child-related data to monitor the situation of children and to report on the implementation of the CRC. Establishing formal procedures within the Agency on Statistics and relevant ministries for access to microdata. Making microdata available, where feasible, on the official websites of the national statistical authority and relevant ministries and agencies.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, other relevant ministries and agencies
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; World Bank
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate

<b>Main tasks</b>	Supporting the development of effective planning processes for core household surveys to report on SDG, NDS/MTDP indicators, and addressing the insufficient use of survey data for reporting on the MTDP/NDS.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Strengthening the planning process for core surveys and statistical data to monitor national strategic documents and child-related SDG indicators. Conducting pilot studies to identify SDG indicators for which data are currently unavailable.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, MoEDT
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; UNDP; World Bank
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate



<b>Main tasks</b>	Supporting the wide use of relevant child-related data in the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of national policies and international commitments.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Supporting capacity-building activities for staff of child rights institutions and relevant line ministries to strengthen capacities for analysing and using child statistics. Strengthening national institutional capacity to conduct monitoring and evaluation by reinforcing efforts to build institutional capabilities for undertaking monitoring and evaluation.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, MoEDT, Academy of Public Administration; relevant line ministries
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; UNDP; UN Women
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate

<b>Main tasks</b>	Establishing a system to track SDG indicators, taking budget processes into account.
<b>Proposed actions</b>	Establishing a mechanism to improve SDG data flows and coordination across planning, budget preparation and reporting processes. Scaling up the SDG financial tracking tool from the pilot phase (education sector) to other sectors.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Agency on Statistics, MoEDT, relevant line ministries, in consultation with the MoF
<b>Partner</b>	UNICEF; UNDP
<b>Need</b>	High
<b>Resource costs</b>	Moderate

## 8. STRATEGIC AREAS FOR INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE CHILD-RELATED DATA

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Statistics and data related to children’s rights in Tajikistan need to become broader and clearer. Overall, this section proposes a review of data within a wider children’s rights framework.

At the same time, two SDG targets directly focus on improving official statistics, which is critical for demographic assessments and projections, namely:

- ensuring public access to information (Target 16.10); and
- strengthening initiatives to develop indicators for measuring progress on sustainable development and building statistical capacity in developing countries (Target 17.19).

In general, it is expected that Tajikistan will further increase attention to improving access to data and ensuring the systematic updating of a wide range of indicators—



including SDG indicators—disaggregated by categories and regions.

Priority areas for establishing a progress management platform in this field include:

- developing policy planning and implementation mechanisms to improve the efficiency of resource use and ensure social returns from economic reforms; and
- strengthening information and statistical capacity, including establishing a modern data repository that relies on timely and reliable data and the production of comparable indicators.

Overall, key directions for advancing the nationalization of child-related SDGs in Tajikistan include:

- *Data availability and closing data gaps.* For some child-related SDG indicators, data are not available or data gaps persist, because primary data do not exist or are not collected regularly, and there is no certainty about the next data collection round. This undermines continuity and limits the ability to monitor SDG indicators. In addition, minimum international reporting requirements for SDG indicators have been evolving dynamically since 2015.
- *Data quality.* For monitoring child-related SDG indicators, responsible data providers must guarantee high-quality information, particularly institutions that are not producers of official statistics and rely on non-official data sources.
- *Lack of metadata for individual indicators.* A key prerequisite for data reporting is the availability of clear definitions and metadata for child-related SDG indicators at both global and national levels.
- *Identifying responsible data providers.* Identifying the responsible data provider for all child-related SDG indicators—especially qualitative indicators and those where required data are held by multiple institutions—is critical. For some indicators, international organizations (UNICEF, the World Bank, FAO, etc.) are the data providers; accordingly, the responsibility for production also rests with them.
- *Data disaggregation.* The 2030 Agenda emphasizes the need to disaggregate child-related data so that “no one is left behind.” Ensuring the required disaggregation may involve multiple challenges, including risks of disclosure of sensitive information, feasibility constraints, and lack of methodological guidance.
- *Partnership network.* To report effectively on child-related sustainable development achievements, the roles of each institution responsible for producing and monitoring child-related SDG indicators must be defined. Developing national SDG indicators requires additional efforts by all stakeholders—both to ensure availability of missing indicators and to strengthen continuity in data collection processes. In this context, effective cooperation within an established partnership network among all stakeholders is essential.

A series of stakeholder consultations on improving the child-related data base was conducted with UNICEF support. As a result, recommendations have been developed to address gaps.



## Strengthening demand for data on children's rights

*Timeframe: short- to medium-term*

Tajikistan has an established child rights structure grounded in legislation and a policy framework focused on protecting children's rights. Child-related priorities and some SDG indicators recently included in national strategic documents are shaping demand for data. The national coordinating body on child rights—the GoRT National Commission on Child Rights chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister—convenes twice a year. In practice, reporting by Commission members tends to focus on activities. In this context, increasing attention to outcome-oriented indicators on children's situation is critical. National action plans for implementing the CRC Committee's Concluding Observations are monitored on a regular basis. This creates demand for data and evidence on children's situation and the realization of children's rights.

*CONTINUE* work to define a monitoring indicator framework for child-related data.

*CONTINUE* advocacy to integrate child-related SDG indicators and child rights monitoring frameworks into national strategies and action plans.

*CONTINUE* support to strengthen national monitoring and evaluation systems with a focus on children's rights and priorities.

*STRENGTHEN* support to the National Commission on Child Rights to enable more effective, evidence-based monitoring of implementation of the CRC Committee's Concluding Observations, monitoring of children's situation, and realization of their rights—thereby generating demand for evidence-based results for children.

## Addressing data gaps through surveys and research

*Timeframe: short- and long-term*

For children's rights and SDG implementation, it is essential that data meet specific requirements:

- availability of continuous time series;
- alignment with internationally recognized/accepted methodologies;
- provision of primary data (e.g., early childhood development; sexual violence before age 18); and
- high-frequency data. A system to obtain real-time data or longitudinal analytical data on key child-related indicators should be established to support informed decisions in planning and monitoring processes. Child-specific questions should be incorporated into the Listening to Tajikistan survey.

Given the multi-dimensional nature of child-related data, it is important to:

*CONTINUE* efforts to integrate child-related questions and modules into existing and planned household surveys, in line with methodological requirements (e.g., child discipline in DHS; child poverty in the Household Budget Survey; child well-being in Listening to Tajikistan).

*INITIATE* work to increase the Agency on Statistics' awareness of the latest MICS tools that can generate relevant data on children, adolescents/youth and women, including primary data for some indicators (e.g., early childhood development).

*STRENGTHEN* advocacy and resource mobilization efforts to conduct a child-



focused MICS.

## Improving the quality of administrative data through in-depth assessment

*Timeframe: short- to medium-term*

A comprehensive assessment of administrative data helps identify gaps and weaknesses that hinder continuous monitoring of SDGs and children's rights to an adequate standard of living, survival and health, quality education, safe drinking water, a safe living environment, and a life free from violence.

Administrative data quality is a systemic issue. The growing need to use administrative data more widely for producing official statistics requires establishing a system for managing their quality. To better understand the status of sectoral data systems—where key data gaps exist—and to implement targeted measures to improve administrative data quality:

*CONTINUE* work to undertake deeper assessments and to develop and implement specific action plans to improve sectoral data. One area requiring urgent attention is data on children in alternative care.

*INITIATE* work to support the establishment of a data quality assurance framework, quality assurance procedures and tools for child-related statistical data.

*INITIATE* work to assess child statistics and their compliance with international classifications—especially for cross-sectoral data on violence against children, child justice, children in emergencies, and other vulnerable groups of children.

*EXPAND* the application of overarching and sectoral assessment frameworks and data system strengthening tools, including those provided by UNICEF. These provide a reliable methodology and improve data quality and comparability.

## Improving intersectoral mechanisms for data exchange

*Timeframe: medium- to long-term*

Information systems in Tajikistan have developed over time with support from donors and various development actors. Strengthening integration across different information systems is critical.

Integrating existing information systems in the short term should be feasible, subject to technical, administrative and legal considerations (including data security). Support for establishing stand-alone databases or information systems without assessing potential linkages and interoperability should be reduced. The following actions are therefore recommended:

*CONTINUE* work on conceptualizing and establishing a child protection case management system, which can serve as a strong entry point for intersectoral collaboration, referral mechanisms and data exchange.

*STRENGTHEN* efforts to identify the best entry points to improve interoperability of information systems through specific assessments and data-related initiatives (e.g., during upgrades of HMIS, EMIS, civil registration and vital statistics) and through digital transformation efforts.

*CONSOLIDATE* partnerships with other UN agencies and development partners to



advocate for and mobilize resources and efforts to improve availability and use of cross-sectoral data and system interoperability.

## Improving access to child-related data

*Timeframe: medium-term*

Access to sectoral information systems should be expanded. Given that existing administrative data on children are mainly scattered across various thematic or sectoral paper-based publications, it is essential first and foremost to make key sectoral and cross-sectoral child-related data available for use. To improve access:

*CONTINUE* work with relevant partners to publish a regular dedicated report on the situation of children's rights in the country that consolidates child-related statistical data and analytical materials.

*STRENGTHEN* efforts to establish a National Child Data Portal via a dedicated website or through integration into the existing data dissemination platform managed by the Agency on Statistics. All available disaggregated administrative data—including subnational data—and survey data on children should be consolidated into one platform.

*CONSOLIDATE* efforts to make available information tools to identify and track vulnerability at subnational level and strengthen evidence-based decision-making. It is also important that all available administrative data on child-related SDG indicators at subnational level be compiled to enable tracking using administrative data as an alternative source.

## Promoting the use of data, including at subnational level

*Timeframe: short- to medium-term*

Understanding and generating demand for evidence requires close collaboration with potential data users. Collected data must be transformed into actionable information and used for decision-making. Data platforms developed with support from various donors or UN agencies should become sustainable over time. Similarly, digitization should inherently lead to improved data use. Alongside improving data supply, efforts should focus on anticipating potential uses and increasing awareness among institutions involved and responsible for the realization of children's rights—regarding child rights-related indicators, child-sensitive programming, and how to use data responsibly and effectively to deliver better outcomes for children.

*INCREASE* advocacy and training on the role of data in achieving results, including training on calculating key child-related indicators using demographic and vulnerability data from multiple administrative sources at national and subnational levels.

*INITIATE* work in partnership with national institutions and academia on secondary analysis of data, including census data, core surveys (DHS, HBS) and administrative data on child-related issues.

*INCREASE* investment in building the capacity of decision-makers and relevant institutions on children's rights. Investment to promote evidence-based policymaking may include developing a training course or module on monitoring and evaluation of national strategies in line with SDG and CRC commitments and/or child rights monitoring, in partnership with government institutions and academia (e.g., the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the Academy of Public Administration).





for every child