

UNICEF's Regional

Child Rights Monitoring Framework

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UNICEF Regional Office of Europe and Central Asia

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Overview

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the foundation of the global child rights system. Its provisions span the full spectrum of children's lives, from family environment, health, and education to protection, participation, and support for children in vulnerable situations. Because these rights are indivisible and interdependent, States Parties must implement and monitor the Convention in its entirety to ensure the realisation of all rights for every child. This makes systematic child rights monitoring essential for understanding progress and identifying where further action is needed. Systematic child rights monitoring requires comprehensive coverage of all CRC provisions and relies on robust data collection, verification, analysis, reporting, and use.

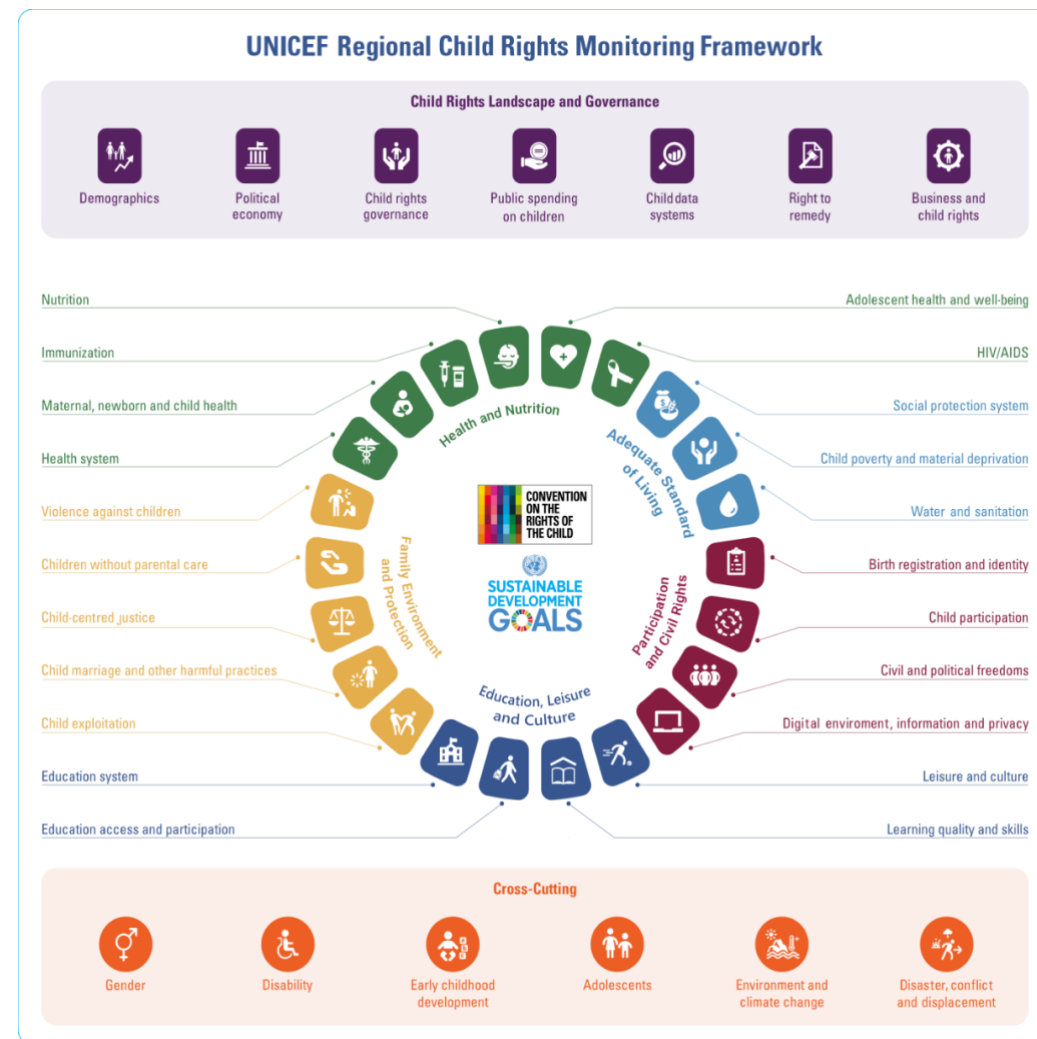
Many national and international efforts have strengthened child rights monitoring, yet gaps remain. Certain CRC areas are not consistently covered, and explicit linkages between data, indicators, CRC obligations, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are often missing. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has therefore repeatedly called for comprehensive, integrated monitoring systems that reflect the full breadth of the Convention.

To address these challenges, the Child Rights Monitoring Framework was first developed in 2022 to promote a coherent, systematised approach to monitoring child rights across the region. Rooted in the CRC, the framework recognises the interconnected nature of child rights and their alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

The framework consists of five core child rights domains with associated sub-domains, a domain on the Child Rights Landscape and Governance that reflects the General Measures of Implementation, and six cross-cutting dimensions requiring special attention. Each sub-domain is mapped to relevant CRC articles and, where applicable, to SDG targets, enabling clearer alignment between human rights obligations and measurable outcomes.

This document presents descriptions of domains and sub-domains, and their linkages to the CRC and SDGs. Initial indicator sets, prioritising existing standards such as child-related SDG indicators and regional frameworks, have also been mapped to each sub-domain and are available on the [online portal](#). For each indicator, the framework proposes desired disaggregation, appropriate data sources, survey instruments, and links to metadata.

The current update strengthens the framework by improving the clarity of domain and sub-domain descriptions, enhancing linkages with specific CRC articles, and making it more helpful to governments and partners in building stronger, more coherent, and more child-centred monitoring systems.



DOMAIN 1: CHILD RIGHTS LANDSCAPE AND GOVERNANCE

This domain focuses on the enabling environment for the realization of child rights, including governance structures, legal and policy frameworks, budgeting, data, accountability, and oversight. It covers how political, economic, and social systems shape outcomes for children and how States implement the general measures of the CRC.

CRC ARTICLES



SDGs

-  **SDG 8: Economic growth and decent work**
Target 8.5
-  **SDG 10: Reduce inequality**
Target 10.3; 10.7.
-  **SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions** Targets: 16.3; 16.6; 16.a.
-  **SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals** Targets: 17.1; 17.18; 17.17; 17.19

Sub-Domain Name + Definition	CRC Articles	CRC General Comments
 1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS This sub-domain covers population and vital statistics on children, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, location, socioeconomic status and other relevant factors to reveal inequalities and inform child-rights policy.		<i>GC5 General measures</i>
 1.2 POLITICAL ECONOMY This sub-domain addresses political, economic and social drivers shaping the environment for child rights — including fiscal space, governance quality and structural reforms — with explicit attention to impacts on children.		<i>GC5 General measures; GC19 Budgeting</i>
 1.3 CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE This sub-domain covers measures for CRC implementation: law and policy alignment, a comprehensive child strategy, cross-sector coordination, capacity-building, public awareness and civil-society engagement; also includes child-rights impact assessments.		<i>GC2 NHRIs; GC5 General measures; GC19 Budgeting</i>

 1.4 PUBLIC SPENDING ON CHILDREN This sub-domain assesses whether resources are mobilised, allocated, spent and reported in a transparent, adequate and equitable way to advance child rights, consistent with CRC Art. 4 (maximum available resources).		<i>GC19 Budgeting</i>
 1.5 CHILD DATA SYSTEMS This sub-domain covers availability, quality and use of rights-based, disaggregated data systems that respect privacy, support CRC monitoring and inform decisions; includes participatory approaches with children where appropriate.		<i>GC5 General measures</i>
 1.6 RIGHT TO REMEDY This sub-domain addresses accessibility and effectiveness of judicial, quasi-judicial, administrative and informal mechanisms, including child-friendly complaint procedures and independent institutions (NHRIs/ombudspersons).		<i>GC2 NHRIs; GC5 General measures; GC12 Right to be heard; GC14 Best interests; OPIC Communications</i>
 1.7 BUSINESS AND CHILD RIGHTS This sub-domain assesses frameworks and practice for preventing, mitigating and remedying business impacts on children, including supply-chain risks, procurement standards and corporate accountability.		<i>GC16 Business and children</i>

DOMAIN 2: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

This domain addresses every child's right to the highest attainable standard of health and nutrition. It covers preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative health services — from maternal and newborn care to adolescent well-being — as well as nutrition, immunization, and responses to HIV and AIDS.

CRC ARTICLES



SDGs



SDG 2: Zero hunger
Targets 2.1; 2.2.



SDG 3: Good health and well-being
Targets: 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.5; 3.7; 3.8; 3.a; 3.b.



SDG 5: Gender equality Target 5.6

Sub-Domain Name + Definition	CRC Articles	CRC General Comments
 2.1 HEALTH SYSTEM This sub-domain covers access to universal, equitable, quality and child-friendly services across prevention, promotion, care and rehabilitation, supported by adequate financing and workforce.		<i>GC15 Right to health</i>
 2.2 MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH This sub-domain covers antenatal, perinatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance and child-survival interventions, aligned with the right to health and survival/development.		<i>GC15 Right to health</i>
 2.3 IMMUNIZATION This sub-domain monitors universal and equitable vaccine coverage, with focus on zero-dose and under-immunized children and maintaining resilience to crises.		<i>GC15 Right to health</i>



2.4 NUTRITION

This sub-domain addresses access to safe, nutritious and sustainable diets, breastfeeding, stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies; also covers overweight/obesity prevention and food-environment policies.



GC15 Health; GC16 Business and children



2.5 ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

This sub-domain covers adolescents' physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, with adolescent-friendly, confidential and stigma-free services aligned to evolving capacities.



GC4 Adolescent health; GC20 Adolescence



2.6 HIV/AIDS

This sub-domain monitors prevention, testing, early infant diagnosis, PMTCT, paediatric treatment and anti-stigma measures for children and adolescents.



GC3 HIV/AIDS; GC20 Adolescence

DOMAIN 3: EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURE

This domain covers the right to inclusive, quality, and equitable education and to rest, leisure, play, and participation in cultural and artistic life. It includes access and participation, learning quality, and safe school environments that nurture development and well-being.

CRC ARTICLES



SDGs



SDG 4: Quality education
Targets: 4.1; 4.2; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.a; 4.c.



SDG 8: Economic growth and decent work
Target 8.6

Sub-Domain Name + Definition	CRC Articles	CRC General Comments
 3.1 EDUCATION SYSTEM This sub-domain covers governance, policy frameworks, financing, teachers, infrastructure and quality assurance to deliver free and compulsory primary and progressively free secondary education, with inclusive and safe learning environments.		<i>GC1 Aims/quality; GC13 Freedom from violence</i>
 3.2 EDUCATION ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION This sub-domain addresses barriers to access and retention — physical, financial and discriminatory — with targeted measures for children with disabilities, minority and migrant children and other excluded groups.		<i>GC6 Migrant/refugee; GC9 Disability; GC20 Adolescence</i>
 3.3 LEARNING QUALITY AND SKILLS This sub-domain covers relevant learning outcomes, child-centred pedagogy, teacher quality and inclusive assessment that promote human rights, life skills and values such as diversity and environmental responsibility.		<i>GC1 Aims/quality</i>
 3.4 LEISURE AND CULTURE This sub-domain covers safe, inclusive and accessible opportunities for play, sports, culture, arts and rest in homes, schools and communities, with children's participation in design and oversight.		<i>GC17 Play and culture</i>

DOMAIN 4: FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

This domain examines how families, communities, and child protection systems safeguard children from violence, neglect, exploitation, and harmful practices. It also includes access to justice and quality alternative care when family care is unavailable.

CRC ARTICLES



SDGs



SDG 5: Gender equality
Targets: 5.2; 5.3.



SDG 8: Economic growth and decent work
Target 8.7



SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
Targets 16.1; 16.2; 16.3.

Sub-Domain Name + Definition

CRC Articles

CRC General Comments



4.1 VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

This sub-domain addresses prohibition, prevention, detection and response to all forms of violence against children — including corporal punishment, neglect and sexual abuse — with coordinated services for recovery and reintegration.



*GC8 Corporal punishment;
GC13 Freedom from violence*



4.2 CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE

This sub-domain covers provision and oversight of quality alternative care, prioritising family-based options, regular reviews and safeguards against unnecessary institutionalisation, consistent with UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.



GC14 Best interests



4.3 CHILD-CENTRED JUSTICE

This sub-domain covers child-sensitive procedures for victims, witnesses and alleged offenders; prevention and diversion, non-custodial measures, legal aid, safeguards in any deprivation of liberty and reintegration services.



GC24 Child justice



4.4 CHILD MARRIAGE AND OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES

This sub-domain combines legal prohibition and community strategies to eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage, FGM, initiation rites and so-called “honour” crimes, addressing root causes in gender inequality and norms.



GC18 Harmful practices



4.5 CHILD EXPLOITATION

This sub-domain covers economic exploitation, trafficking, sale and sexual exploitation (including online), with measures for prevention, protection, justice and child-centred recovery/reintegration.



OPSC
Sale/prostitution/pornography

DOMAIN 5: PARTICIPATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS

This domain focuses on children as active rights-holders with civil and political freedoms. It includes the right to be heard and to participate in decision-making, birth registration and identity, access to information, privacy, and safe engagement in digital and civic spaces.

CRC ARTICLES



SDGs



SDG 4: Quality education Target 4.4

SDG 5: Gender equality Targets 5.b

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities Target 10.2

SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong Institutions Targets: 16.7; 16.9; 16.10.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals Targets: 17.8; 17.19.

Sub-Domain Name + Definition	CRC Articles	CRC General Comments
 5.1 BIRTH REGISTRATION AND IDENTITY This sub-domain covers free, universal and timely birth registration, accessible late registration, safeguards against statelessness and protection of children's identity (name, nationality, family relations).		GC6 <i>Unaccompanied; GC7 Early childhood</i>
 5.2 CHILD PARTICIPATION This sub-domain addresses inclusive, safe and meaningful mechanisms for children to be heard across all relevant settings, with feedback on how their views influence decisions and safeguards against reprisals.		GC12 <i>Right to be heard</i>
 5.3 CIVIL AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS This sub-domain covers children's rights to expression, conscience, association and peaceful assembly, and the enabling environment for child-led initiatives and civic engagement.		GC12 <i>Right to be heard</i>
 5.4 DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT, INFORMATION AND PRIVACY This sub-domain covers access to age-appropriate information, digital literacy and safe online participation, along with robust data-privacy protections for children in public and private spheres.		GC25 <i>Digital environment</i>

DOMAIN 6: ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

This domain addresses children's right to an adequate standard of living and to social protection that reduces poverty and deprivation. It includes access to housing, water, sanitation, and other conditions necessary for survival and development.

CRC ARTICLES



SDGs



SDG 1: Zero poverty
Targets: 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.5; 1.b.



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
Targets: 6.1; 6.2; 6.b.



SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
Target 7.1



SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
Targets: 11.1; 11.2; 11.7.

Sub-Domain Name + Definition	CRC Articles	CRC General Comments
 6.1 SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM This sub-domain covers coverage, adequacy and responsiveness of child- and family-oriented social protection — cash, services and childcare — with equity and gender sensitivity and linkages to services.		<i>GC7 Early childhood; GC19 Budgeting</i>
 6.2 CHILD POVERTY AND MATERIAL DEPRIVATION This sub-domain covers measurement of income and multidimensional child poverty and the effectiveness of policies to reduce deprivation in housing, nutrition and clothing.		<i>GC7 Early childhood; GC19 Budgeting</i>
 6.3 WATER AND SANITATION This sub-domain covers universal, safe and sustainable access to WASH for children at home, in schools and in health facilities, including menstrual hygiene and accessibility for children with disabilities.		<i>GC15 Right to health</i>

DOMAIN 7: CROSS-CUTTING

This domain brings together cross-cutting and intersectional areas that influence all other rights — including gender equality, disability inclusion, early childhood development, adolescence, climate and environmental sustainability, and protection in contexts of disaster, conflict, and displacement.

Sub-Domain Name + Definition	CRC Articles + General Comments	SDGs
 7.1 GENDER This sub-domain covers gender-based discrimination and promotes gender-transformative approaches that challenge harmful norms and mainstream equality across all domains.	 <i>GC13 Freedom from violence; GC20 Adolescence</i>	 SDG 5: Gender equality Targets: 5.1; 5.c
 7.2 DISABILITY This sub-domain covers accessibility, reasonable accommodation and inclusive services for children with disabilities, aligned with the CRC and CRPD.	 <i>GC9 Disabilities</i>	 SDG 4: Quality education Targets 4.5; 4.a.  SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth Target 8.5  SDG 10: Reduced inequalities Target 10.2  SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities Targets: 11.2; 11.7.



7.3 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

This sub-domain covers integrated approaches to health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, protection and early learning, with emphasis on the first 1,000 days and quality pre-primary education.



GC7 Early childhood



SDG 2: Zero hunger
Target 2.2



SDG 3: Good health and well-being
Target 3.2



SDG 4: Quality education
Target 4.2



7.4 ADOLESCENTS

This sub-domain covers adolescent development issues including education-to-work transitions, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, protection and civic participation, recognising evolving capacities.



GC20 Adolescence



SDG 2: Zero hunger
Target 2.2



SDG 3: Good health and well-being
Targets: 3.5; 3.7; 3.a



SDG 4: Quality education
Targets: 4.3; 4.4; 4.6; 4.b



SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
Targets: 8.5; 8.6; 8.7; 8.b



SDG 13: Climate action
Target 13.a



7.5 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This sub-domain covers the effects of environmental degradation and climate change on children's health, survival, education and protection, and promotes children's participation in environmental and climate action.



GC26 Environment and climate



SDG 1: No poverty Target 1.5



SDG 3: Good health and well-being Target 3.9



SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy All targets



SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities Target 11.5



SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production All targets



SDG 13: Climate action All targets



SDG 14: Life below water All targets



SDG 15: Life on land All targets



7.6 DISASTER, CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT

This sub-domain covers the child-rights protection in disasters/conflict/migration: continuity of services, preparedness, safe evacuation/shelter, protection from recruitment, family tracing/reunification and durable solutions.



GC6 Unaccompanied; GC15 Health; GC26 Environment/climate; OPAC Armed conflict



SDG 1: No poverty Target 1.5



SDG 10: Reduce inequalities Target 10.7



SDG 13: Climate action Target 13.1



SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions Targets: 16.1; 16.4; 16.8



SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals Targets: 17.2; 17.3