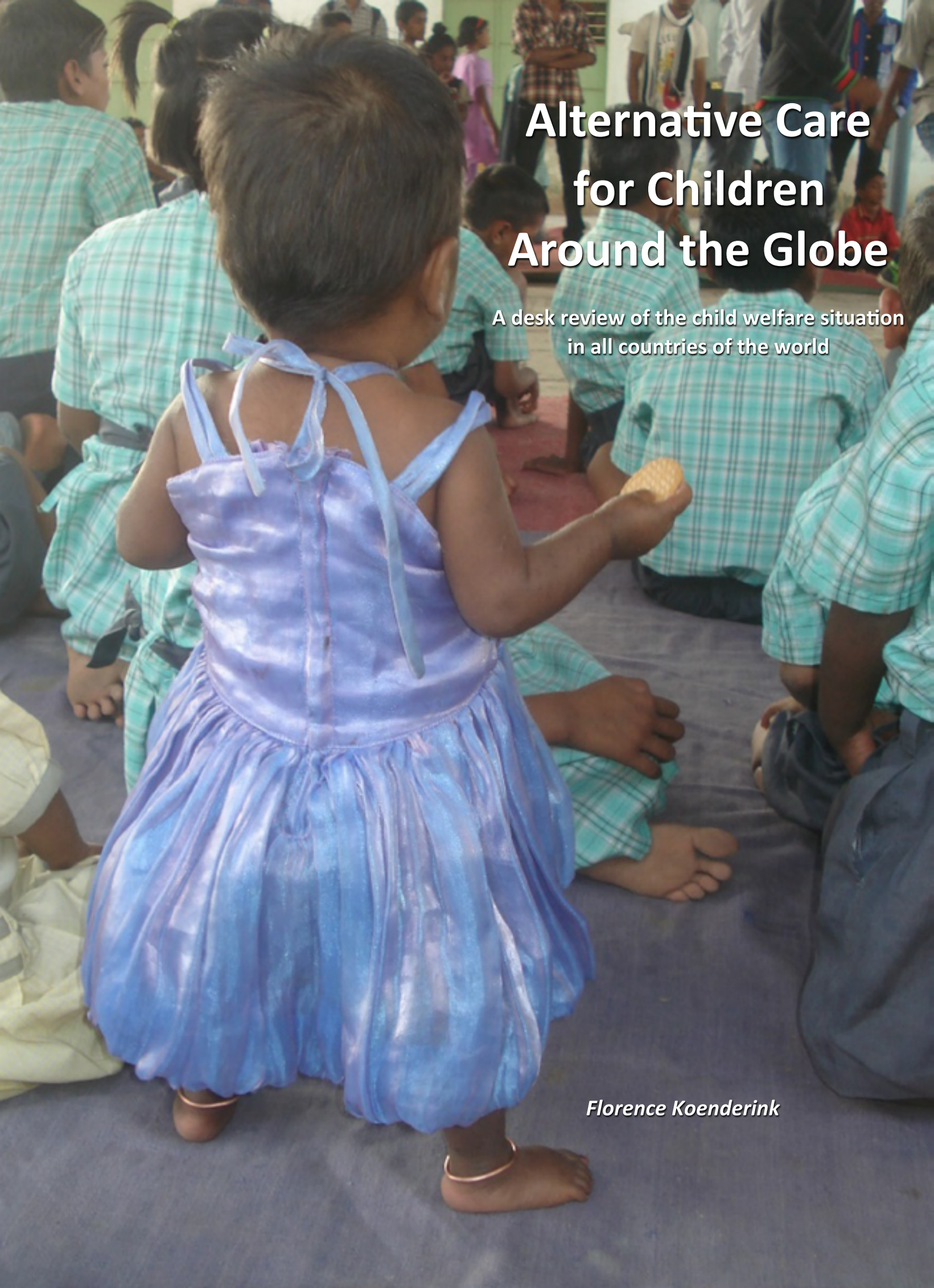

Alternative Care for Children Around the Globe

A desk review of the child welfare situation in all countries of the world

Florence Koenderink

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Glossary

Albinism: A congenital condition where pigmentation is lacking from the entire body, leading to a very pale skin, white hair and eyes that are very sensitive to light.

Alternative care: Formal and informal care of children without parental care. This includes kinship care, foster care, other forms of family-based or family-like care placements, supervised independent living arrangements for older children, and residential care facilities.

Children: Girls and boys under the age of 18 years.

Children without parental care: Children who for whatever reason are not receiving overnight care from at least one of their parents.

Child trafficking: The sale of children or the removal of children from their families with the aim of exploiting them.

Committee (the): Always used with a capital C, indicates the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Confiage: Placing a child with relatives who are wealthier in order to ensure food and education.

Corporal punishment: Discipline measures that include inflicting pain or deprivation of food or rest.

CRC report: Report submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by a country.

Customary adoption: Informal adoption, without the involvement of the state or the court, according to traditional rules.

De facto: What is in fact happening – possibly contrary to what should be happening according to policies or laws.

Deinstitutionalisation: Moving alternative care towards family-based care, through prevention of children being institutionalised, building up family-based care alternatives and removing children from institutions to be reunited with their own families or to be placed in family-based care.

Domestic adoption: Adoption within the country, by citizens of the country.

Extended family: The nuclear family plus aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins.

Family-based care: Care for children without parental care in a family or family-like environment.

Family support: Various measures taken, and community services made available, by the state to prevent the abandonment of children and to prevent the need to deprive parents of their parental rights for the protection of the child.

Fatwa: A non-binding ruling on a point of Islamic law by a recognised authority.

Food insecurity: Regularly being unsure where the next meal will come from or when the next meal will be.

***Formal care*:** Care provided for children without parental care under the supervision of the relevant authorities, this can be family-based or in a residential institutional setting.

Foster care: Care that is the result of authorities placing children in a family other than the one they were born in, sometimes with relatives, sometimes with strangers. This can be short-term or long-term.

Full adoption: Adoption that places a child permanently in a new family, taking on their family name and acquiring all the rights of a biological child, while all ties to the biological family of the child are severed.

Guardianship: When parents are unable to take parental responsibility for their child, or when the court has removed their parental rights, the court can appoint another person as the child's guardian. This person is then responsible for making decisions about the child and protecting the child's best interest.

Hukou: A personal registration number given to people in China, needed for access to education, healthcare etc.

Inclusive education: Education in which children with and without disabilities attend mainstream schools together, with necessary adjustments made and assistance provided to ensure that children with special education needs are able to participate as fully as

possible.

Informal care: Any private arrangement provided in a family environment, in which the child is looked after by relatives or friends, at the initiative of the parents or family members, without the involvement of the authorities.

Indigent: Poor, destitute.

Institutional care: Care that involves children being looked after in a state-run or private institution with a large capacity, staffed by salaried caregivers or volunteers, based on collective living arrangements with inflexible rules and routines.

Intercountry adoption: Adoption by adoptive parents who live in a different country from that where the child lives, and who usually have a different nationality from the child.

Kafalah: An alternative to adoption allowed under Islamic Law, where the child is placed with another family, usually permanently. The child does not cut ties with their biological family, the child does not take on the adoptive family's family name and can inherit up to one third of the inheritance upon the new parents' death. Sometimes also seen as a form of long-term or permanent foster care.

Kafeel: The person taking responsibility for a child through Kafalah.

Kinship care: Placement of a child within the child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the child, this can be formal or informal in nature. This can be either a permanent arrangement or a temporary one.

Means tested: Only available to people with an income below a certain threshold.

Mainstream school: A regular school, as attended by most children.

Malnutrition: In this report refers to lack of sufficient food or lack of certain kinds of food.

Marabout: A scholar of the Quran or a religious teacher, in some countries also used as a name for Quranic schools.

Poverty relief: Various measures taken by the state to help households escape (extreme) poverty and to ensure that the rights of poor children are protected.

Privately run: An institution run by a non-government entity, such as an NGO, a faith-based organisation or private individuals.

***Residential care*:** Care provided in a group setting that is not family-based, including both small group homes and large-scale institutions. This can be used as a temporary emergency measure, or as a long-term placement.

Simple adoption: Adoption that places a child with a new family, with all the rights of a biological child, without severing the ties to the biological family, the child may or may not take on the adoptive family's family name. Sometimes referred to as 'open adoption'.

Small group homes: Children are cared for in groups usually of up to 12 children, with usually one or two consistent caregivers responsible for their care, often in a community setting. This form of care is different from foster care in that it takes place outside of the natural 'domestic environment' of the family, usually in facilities that have been especially designed and/or designated for the care of groups of children.

Special Education: Education in schools that specialise in teaching children with particular special needs, these schools are not attended by children without special education needs.

State-run: An institution run by a government department, or under orders and monitoring of the government.

Talibé: A child who studies at a Quranic school.

Tutorship: In some countries, 'guardianship' is a name used only for persons taking responsibility for a child over the age of 14, guardianship of children who are younger is called 'tutorship'.

Voluntourism: Combining volunteering with tourism. In other words, doing volunteering work during your holidays. In this report voluntourism specifically refers to volunteering in residential childcare institutions.

Abbreviations

AIDS:	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ART:	Anti-Retroviral Therapy (medication against HIV)
CRC:	UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
EMBS:	Ethnic Minority Boarding School (the primary form of institutionalisation in Lao)
Excl.:	Excluding
DI:	Deinstitutionalisation
Govt.:	Government
HIV:	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HIV+:	Infected with HIV
Incl.:	Including
IS:	Islamic State
ISIL:	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
Max.:	Maximum
Min.:	Minimum
NA:	Not Applicable
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisation
SEN:	Special Education Needs
TB:	Tuberculosis
UN:	United Nations

Introduction

There is an estimate floating around – passed from hand to hand for several years now, while it is not entirely clear in what year it originated – that proximately 8 million children are living in institutional care around the world. It is impossible to say if this number is correct, and if not, whether it is high or low, though most experts agree it is likely a conservative estimate. Because children in institutions are, more often than not, not counted. They are not included in national censuses, and in many countries, while there may be some statistics about children living in state-run, and sometimes also those in registered NGO-run institutions, there is no real idea how many unregistered institutions exist in the country and how many children live in them. This means that the most vulnerable children go uncounted.

This issue points both to one of the limitations of this report, and to the reason why it is essential that reports like these are made: in order to be able to help the most vulnerable children, it is imperative to have information about how many there are, what kind of situation they are in, how they got into that situation and what kind of alternatives are in place to help them.

This report, and the research behind it, is part of Why Family-Based Solutions' aim to spread information and awareness about the situation of the most vulnerable children in the world. The children who are in, or are in need of, alternative care, are often referred to as 'orphans and vulnerable children'. Many of them do live with their parents, but in extreme poverty, without access to education or proper healthcare, in food insecurity or are affected by HIV/AIDS. In some cases, the parents may be struggling with unemployment, poor health or mental health problems, making it hard for them to provide care for their children without support. Children in child-headed households, something that is becoming increasingly common in various countries, due to conflict and the AIDS epidemic, are particularly vulnerable. I started this research project in 2015 in order to get an idea of the main ways in which children are vulnerable in different countries and what services are in place to support them.

In the course of this project it became clear that there are a number of countries for which a lot of information is available. These are often not the countries where you would expect to find a lot of detailed information, because their governments do not keep detailed data records. Rather, these countries have attracted a lot of interest from international NGOs and researchers.

It is important to clarify the purpose of this research project and report. From the start, I set out to create an overview of the way alternative childcare is tackled by the different countries in the world and of the surrounding good practice and obstacles. Although looking through the overview certainly brings up points that could be useful to emulate elsewhere or things to be guarded against, I have chosen not to take the step to draw general conclusions or to go so far as to provide recommendations – whether for individual countries or in general – in this document. This is in part because of the limitations of the material gathered – on which I will elaborate below – but also because I believe that as it stands, as an overview without conclusions drawn, this report provides a useful and necessary tool for many organisations working in this and associated fields. You could see it as a travel guide of alternative care, with the best available information about alternative care for children, instead of places to stay or eat at.

Why Family-Based Solutions' plans and future projects will certainly be fuelled by the information that was discovered through this research project, with more documents to come out of the mining of the collected data. And it is my hope that this will be the case for more organisations.

Methodology

This research project is a desk review. I started out by formulating 10 questions or areas about which I wanted to gather information for each country, in order to gain a relatively complete picture of the institutional childcare situation of a country and the issues connected to it.
The original points were as follows:

1. Estimate of number of children in institutional care
2. Statistics and information about adoption and fostering
3. Main reasons for institutionalisation
4. Ratio state-run to NGO-run homes
5. Standard of care in childcare institutions
6. The occurrence of child abandonment
7. Evidence of an orphanage industry
8. Attitudes to and provisions for children with disabilities
9. Presence of UNICEF in the country
10. Political stability of the country, including any major issue that may impact child protection

Officially, adoption is not part of alternative care, for the simple reason that once a child has been adopted, he or she has become a permanent part of a new family and is no longer in need of care. However, information about it is included in this report, because it does provide a permanent family-based solution for children who really cannot live with their own families and a way out of the alternative care system. Also, adoption is sometimes an element in the presence of an orphanage industry.

With regard to the number of children in institutional care, I have tried to exclude children who are institutionalised because they are in conflict with the law, unless the statistics available made it impossible. If these children are included in the numbers given, this is indicated. The reason for this exclusion, is that the institutionalisation of children in conflict with the law is an entirely different subject. I have used the most recent statistics available. When the numbers from different sources for the same year or for years close together were very different, I have made my decision on which numbers to use based on the reputability of the different sources. In making this decision I have also taken into account that figures from government sources often do not include children under the care of non-governmental agencies, and that the presence of unregistered facilities might make independent estimations more reliable. When in doubt, I chose the higher figure, because in practice this group of children is more likely to go uncounted than to be counted twice.

Pretty soon I realised that only focussing on the institutional childcare situation would give a very incomplete – and therefore much less useful – insight into the situation. So, I expanded the reach of some of the points:

1. Adding the national population and child population for comparison

2. Adding information about informal care
3. Adding information about poverty relief, family strengthening, community-based services and whether education and healthcare were provided free of charge or subsidised
4. Adding reasons for children finding themselves without parental care, regardless of whether they end up in an institution

Because UNICEF is present in all countries except the Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco and Singapore, there is no real reason to add information about its presence to this overview.

The next step was to make a decision on what would constitute 'all countries in the world', because there are many different ways to count. After looking into this from a variety of angles, I decided to adopt the list used by UNICEF when reporting on 'all countries'. This list includes all 196 countries that are recognised internationally as independent states, so countries that do not fall under the government of another country and that sign their own treaties – of this list I only eliminated the Holy See (Vatican City) on the grounds that it does not have much of a child population. This decision was largely made from a practical point of view. I knew that it was going to be a challenge to find enough information to work with for these countries and it would be even harder to find the information needed on each of the countries that do not fall under UNICEF or other UN research and reporting duties.

To find the information I was looking for, I searched on the internet. I used the access provided to their reports and publications by UNICEF, Better Care Network, CELSIS, Lumos Foundation, Disability Rights International, Child Rights International Network, SOS Children's Villages International, Eurochild, and the European Commission. Then, I did searches for additional information using the search engine Google. The search keywords I used, which in each case would be followed by the country name, were as follows:

- Child welfare
- Child protection
- Child abandonment
- Alternative care children
- Foster care
- Social security
- Institutional care children
- Disability
- Orphanage
- Volunteer orphanage
- Child rights

Out of the search results I chose scholarly articles, reports by major organisations, government websites, websites with specialist information, and newspaper articles with credible research behind the reporting. In cases where little or no information was to be found in English for a certain country, if I was proficient in the language spoken in the country, I would do a search using the same terms, but in the country's language.

Finally, I read through reports submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, under article 44 of the Convention for almost all countries, as well as through other documents available surrounding this reporting where relevant. Especially when using self-reporting by countries, such as in these reports or on government websites, I have made a point of looking out for signs of de facto implementations of policies or laws, rather than listing things covered in policies and laws. For there regularly turns out to be a significant gap between legislation and practice, as well as a regular occurrence of plans being announced that have seen no practical progress in ten years, or more.

In filling in the information for each country, I have left the field blank if I was unable to find anything on that subject. If a country's representatives have stated, in a report of some kind, that no information is available on a particular subject, I have written 'no data available' into the field, indicating that it is not something I have been unable to find, but that it is something the country's government does not have any data on.

In cases where several pieces of data were applicable to one field, I entered them first in order of relevance, and if there was data of equal relevance from different times, I placed the most recent one first.

The following table gives an overview of the information provided and how this was organised:

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: Number of people in the country.	Under 18: Number of children in the country.
Number of Orphans	The number of orphans, and/or children orphaned by AIDS in 2013 or 2016.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income, Lower middle-income, Upper middle-income or High-income countries, as classified by the World Bank.	
Violence	War or clashes taking place in the country.	
Landmines	Answered with: Yes, Suspected, Suspected residual landmines or No.	
Internally Displaced	The number of internally displaced people in a specific year.	
Refugees in 2015	I have chosen to always state this as 'Hosted xxx refugees', although in some cases the data said 'took in' or 'accepted', making it hard to know if that was the total number of refugees, or only the new arrivals.	The number of people who left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	The number of children who were victims of trafficking, and other information available related to the trafficking of children.	
Malnutrition	The % of the people who were malnourished in 2014-2016, and other information related to malnutrition if this was available.	
Poverty	Information on poverty and food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate	Information on a country being prone to hurricanes, floods, droughts, earthquakes, or rising sea levels.	
Other Issues	Any other issues related to or impacting child welfare in the country.	

In the following table, the left column is used for statistics and the right column for other relevant information on the subject. If information is only available for one of the two columns, the columns are merged to keep everything as compact as possible.

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	The number of children in care or in formal family-based care in a specific year.	Background information on alternative care in the country.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	List of the main reasons for children ending up without parental care, sometimes with an explanation about the background of something.	
Children in Institutions	The number of children in institutions in a specific year, if available the number of children under 3 and children with disabilities are mentioned separately.	Background information on institutional care in the country.

Number of Institutions	The number of institutions in a specific year.	Background information on what is known about these numbers.
State-run/Privately Run	How many institutions in a specific year were state-run and how many privately run.	Background information on the relation between state-run and privately run institutions.
Conditions in Institutions	Description of conditions inside institutions.	
Corporal Punishment	Whether corporal punishment is prohibited, not prohibited or only prohibited in certain settings.	
Children in Foster Care	The number of children in foster care or the number of foster care families in a specific year.	Background information on foster care.
Children in Group Homes	The number of children in group homes, or the number of group homes in the country.	Background information on small group homes.
Children under Guardianship	The number of children under guardianship in a specific year.	Background information on guardianship.
Children in Informal Care	The number or % of children in informal care in a specific year.	Background information on informal care.
Children in Kafalah	The number of children in Kafalah, if relevant to the country.	Background information on Kafalah, if relevant to the country.
Children Adopted	The number of children adopted, if relevant to the country. When available, numbers of children adopted domestically and intercountry will both be given.	Background information on adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Whether the country has signed, signed and ratified, or started enforcing the Convention.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Anything reported that points towards illegal adoption having taken place.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Things such as voluntourism opportunities, children being recruited to stay in institutions and it being known that people profit from running institutions.	Background information on exploitation through orphanages.
Children Reunited with Family	The number of children reunited with their families in a specific year.	Background information on children being reunited with their families.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	Indications that a govt. is moving towards DI.	Background information on the DI process.

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Indications of whether education is affordable and accessible.
Healthcare	Indications of whether healthcare is affordable and accessible.
Poverty Relief	Whether initiatives, either financial or in kind, that support the poorest house-holds and help reduce poverty are in place.
Child Allowance	Whether a child allowance or family allowance is paid for by the govt.
Disability Allowance	Whether financial support is given to parents of a child with disabilities.
Family Support	Whether there are community services such as subsidised or free day care and guidance for parents struggling to raise their children to prevent the abandonment of children or the need to deprive parents of their parental rights.

Disability	
Attitude	Description of either acceptance or stigmatisation of and discrimination against children with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	The number or % of children with disabilities in a specific year.
Children with HIV/AIDS	The number of children infected with HIV/AIDS in either 2013 or 2017. When available, further information on this group of children.
Enrolled in School	The number of children with disabilities enrolled in some type of education. And additional information about education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	The number of children with disabilities in special schools or the number of special schools in a specific year, or both.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	The number of children with disabilities in mainstream schools or the number of mainstream schools providing inclusive education, and additional information on inclusive education when available.
Provision of Community Support	Whether there are services available in the community like rehabilitation support, physiotherapy, and help in the home.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed, Signed, or Signed and ratified.

Additional Comments

Any comments on the limitations of the data available for the specific country.

A list of the documents used for this overview, sorted by country, can be found in the references.

Limitations

When gathering information across such a broad area there are, by necessity, serious limitations to the data and particularly to the extent to which it is comparable.

While I have done my utmost to find recent data for all countries, aiming for data less than five years old, this was not always achievable. Despite my best efforts, for one or two countries the most recent information I was able to track down was from 1999. This is very old indeed, in the light of the far-reaching changes that have taken place in the field of child protection and alternative care for children in many countries in the past 10 years.

Another issue is the various use of the different terms for care systems. In some cases, different countries have their own terms for things like kinship care, foster care and adoption. However, it gets more confusing in those cases where familiar terms are used, but are given different meanings. For example, in some countries foster care is said not to exist, instead they have a system of guardianship. However, while in many countries the term guardian is used for someone who has a legal responsibility over the child, but not necessarily – and often not – a responsibility of care, there are also several countries in which guardianship is de facto foster care. Moreover, in another group of countries, guardianship can only apply to a child over the age of 14, while someone with the same responsibility for a younger child is called a tutor.

When it comes to the term residential or institutional care there is also a varied use. While globally the term residential care is generally used to refer to large-scale institutions, in North-Western Europe, and the USA, this kind of institution no longer exists. Yet they still report that a certain percentage of the children under state care live in residential care. In these countries, residential care refers to small family-like group homes in the community, with no more than 8-12 children, depending on the country. So when two countries both say that they have 5,000 children in residential care, which in one country means in institutions set away from the community with a capacity of 100-200 children cared for by 5-10 varying caregivers and in the other country it means in small group homes in the community with no more than 8 children per group and 2-3 dedicated caregivers to take care of them, there really is very little that is comparable about these situations, other than that the children are not growing up in a family.

Even seemingly straightforward terms or categories can be hard to compare or may cause confusion. International or intercountry adoption seems like a simple enough concept. However, when countries provide statistics on intercountry adoption, in some countries this refers exclusively to children adopted out of the country, for some countries it refers exclusively to children adopted into the country, and in a few countries children are adopted both into and out of the country. So, while for example Germany's intercountry adoption data refers to children who have been adopted from a variety of foreign countries and made part of German families, Zambia's intercountry adoption refers to Zambian children having been adopted by foreign families and moved out of the country. These are very distinct situations.

Something else that causes a lot of confusion, and difficulty in comparing the statistics, is that in many countries boarding schools are used a lot and that it is not always easy to clarify the function of these boarding schools or separate the numbers. This is an issue, because while some of these boarding schools function as would be expected on hearing the term – children attend school there and board, but go home to their families during all school holidays, and sometimes even during the weekends – this is not the case for all boarding schools. In some cases, children only get to go home once a year. And in some cases, children remain at the school all year round for their entire education, making the school a de facto residential institution. In some countries, statistics on institutional childcare leave out boarding schools, because these are schools, not orphanages or shelters, and these countries may thereby omit a large portion of institutionalised children without parental care. While in some countries the statistics include children in boarding schools, which may include thousands of children who go home every holiday or even every weekend.

The difficulties comparing terms and numbers does not stop with the comparison between countries. Many countries in the world have different levels of federal systems. In these systems different states, provinces and cantonments have their own rules, terms and sometimes quite different child protection systems. Even a country like Canada when asked by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, was unable to report statistics – general or disaggregated – about children in residential care or in foster care, because the federal government is not involved in this and the different states each have different systems in place, so their data is not easily comparable.

When going through the CRC reports, it became clear that the numbers in them do not always add up. It is a regular occurrence that an addition of the disaggregated numbers produces a different total from the total given in the report. Or that the numbers given in a statistical overview do not match those mentioned in the text. In these cases I have had to make educated guesses as to which ones were likely to be closer to the actual situation.

Despite the very significant limitations to the information gathered, it still offers quite a comprehensive overview of the situation of alternative care and child protection in the countries.

Africa

ALGERIA
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MAURITANIA
MALI
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DEMOCRATIC
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TANZANIA
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
MOZAMBIQUE
MADAGASCAR
ZIMBABWE
NAMBIA
BOTSWANA
SOUTH AFRICA

Algeria

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 39,208,190	Under 18: 12,817,260
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Recovering from civil war in the 1990s. Since that war, secret police have put down most protests before they began, there was a de facto curfew in place, after 6 p.m. There were conflicts between the army and IS groups.	
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 94,000 refugees.	3,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking. Becoming a transit point for trafficking between Africa and Western Europe.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	Poverty was severe.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Forced child labour occurred. There were a lot of street children.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	An estimated 3,000-5,000 children were born out of wedlock annually, and due to a strong taboo they were abandoned. Because of the discrimination against these children it took time to find families for them, while waiting they were kept in nurseries. Abuse and neglect.	
Children in Institutions	2008: 1,792	Another report mentioned that in 2011, there were 311 state-run institutions with a capacity of 33,555, generally running at 70% occupancy.
Number of Institutions	2011: 311 state-run homes.	
State-run/Privately Run	2011: 311 state-run, there appeared also to be privately run homes.	
Conditions in Institutions	Unsatisfactory, mainly because of lack of specialised personnel, unsuitable training programmes, and lacking improvements.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	No data, though foster care was said to be favoured.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah	2008: 1,733 in Kafalah domestically and 137 abroad.	Kafalah was seen as foster care here.

Children Adopted	Adoption was not permitted in 2011, though in 2018 it was mentioned that adoption was only allowed by people of Algerian nationality, not clear whether this referred to actual adoption or to Kafalah.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	2010: 273 abandoned babies reunited with their mothers after awareness raising.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Hospital stay is free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, as well as prosthetics provided.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Officially discrimination was prohibited, but it still occurred. Negative attitude from teachers often led to automatic refusal to accept children with disabilities in mainstream schools.
Children with Disabilities	2011: 630,000
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: 1,000. Severely discriminated and not adopted because of their status.
Enrolled in School	2009: Out of 54,584 school-age children with disabilities 22,780 were enrolled in some form of formal education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Angola

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 21,471,620	Under 18: 11,618,660
Number of Orphans	2013: 120,000 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income	
Violence	There were conflicts between the army and rebel groups.	
Internally Displaced		
Landmines	Yes	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 16,000 refugees.	12,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty	2016: Ranked 149 out of 186 in the UN Human Development Report. 45% of people lived below the poverty line.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015: 38% of the population did not have access to safe drinking water.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: No formal alternative care system in place.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2014-2017: Almost half of the abandonment cases were for economic reasons.
Children in Institutions	2018: 131,164
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2016: The govt. worked together with authorised private institutions.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2016: The govt. was working together with SOS Children's Villages to develop a child protection and foster care system.
Children in Group Homes	2016: SOS Children's Villages was active in the country.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2016: Estimated 10% of children did not live with their parents. Traditionally, in most ethnic groups, children from the extended family and the clan were accepted and cared for as own children.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2018: Children could be adopted both by Angolans and by foreign nationals and it was considered irrevocable.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	In 1996 laws were introduced to prevent illegal adoption.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Support given since 2016.
Healthcare	Support given since 2016.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2014: 164,111 children up to 15 years old with disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 29,000.
Enrolled in School	2018: 26,767 children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2018: 20 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2018: 775 inclusive schools. 2017: A national policy was launched to work towards inclusive education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Benin

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,323,470	Under 18: 5,099,320
Number of Orphans	2013: 450,000, of whom 40,000 were orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	1,000 refugees were hosted, 32% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	2004: A country of transit, origin, and destination for child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 10.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2012: Children were sometimes abandoned because they were accused of being a witch.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: No data available.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Living on the streets, abuse, and abandonment.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 5,950	2015: No data available.
Number of Institutions	2015: 2 centres of protection run by the govt. and various private shelters to alleviate the lack of public shelters.	
State-run/Privately Run	2015: 2 state-run and various privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2011-2014: 44 foster families were recruited who took care of and rehabilitated 747 children.	2011: Terres des Hommes developed the foster care system, together with the govt.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2012: *Confiage* was still common practice.	Concerns were raised that *confiage* in Benin led to exploitation and even trafficking of children.
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014: 29 domestic adoptions, of which 23 simple, the rest full.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2015: Children in Quranic schools being forced to beg was becoming rarer after raising awareness and taking action. Various voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012: A move away from institutional care started with the development of family-based alternatives.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free for girls enrolling in middle school and for children with disabilities.
Healthcare	Free for children under age 5.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Infanticide of babies with disabilities, they were considered 'sorcerers'.
Children with Disabilities	2015: No data available.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 8,000.
Enrolled in School	2015: No data available.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	According to the law children with disabilities had the right to attend mainstream schools close to where they lived.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

In the 2015 CRC report very few statistics were given on alternative care.

Botswana (Republic of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,021,140	Under 18: 810,960
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 130,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 2,000 refugees, 38% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	2004: Transit country.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 26% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 35% of the population experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, family dysfunction, abandonment and being orphaned.	
Children in Institutions		
Number of Institutions	2017: 3	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: All run by SOS Children's Villages, receiving some money from the govt.	
Conditions in Institutions	Sometimes abandoned babies were kept in hospitals for some time, while a suitable placement was looked for.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2017: 58 unaccompanied refugee children were placed with foster families within the refugee camp, while family tracing was done.	This was organised by the Red Cross and UNHCR.
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship	Guardianship was used as a long-term solution for children who had no one to take care of them.	
Children in Informal Care	Most children were cared for by their extended family if their parents could not care for them. This was done under customary law, therefore the govt. claimed there was little need for formal care. Orphans were almost always taken in by relatives and the chance of a child ending up a street child was negligible.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Domestic adoption: The most common type of adoption was a man adopting his wife's previous children. Intercountry adoption: Very rare. Before an adopted child could be taken out of the country, the child and parents had to remain in the country for 12 months first, unless the minister gave consent in writing.	

	Traditionally, adoption by people unrelated to the child was not part of the culture and it was still viewed with disapproval. Also, the concept of adoption as irrevocable was poorly understood.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many volountourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free for 10 years (this can be extended into tertiary education if the child has good grades). Assistance with costs associated with education.
Healthcare	Free for children.
Poverty Relief	Food baskets for poor and undernourished children, and in times of drought for all children. Exemptions from payments of fees and utility bills.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Although culturally in many ethnic groups there was an obligation to accept and help people with disabilities, in practice there was discrimination. Parents were often embarrassed and kept their children in the home. This attitude was slowly changing.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 9,000 children under 15.
Enrolled in School	Children often needed to move away from their village to be able to access special education. 17 children received special training in South Africa.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	There were plans to include children with learning disabilities in mainstream schools, at that moment this was only open to some children with sensory or ambulatory disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	Provision of service and advancing rights mostly done by NGOs, who received some money from the govt.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed or ratified

Additional Comments

No statistical information about any form of alternative care or community service.

Burkina Faso

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 16,934,840	Under 18: 8,859,260
Number of Orphans	2013: 120,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 34,000 refugees, 55% of whom were children.	2,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	2008: 591 children, either within the country or cross-border.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 20.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 16% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2012: Children were sometimes abandoned because they were accused of being a witch.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Being lost, having run away, abuse, abandonment, or mental illness of the mother.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 957	The legal duration of placement was 3 months with case reviews every month.
Number of Institutions	2012: 103	
State-run/Privately Run	2012: 2 residential homes and 5 transit centres were state-run and 73 residential homes and 23 transit centres were privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2012: 2 state-run and 2 NGO-run organisations handled foster care.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2005: *Confiage* was still practised and adoption tended to be informal.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2009: 54 intercountry adoptions. Domestic adoption was rare as this was usually done informally.	2012: The law distinguished between simple and full adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Several voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012: A decree to develop foster care and move children from institutions into foster care was issued.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Orphans and vulnerable children are eligible for tuition fees, stationary and school canteen subscriptions.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Fee reductions in healthcare, transport and recreational facilities. 2008: 98 parents received support for mobility aids.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities were less likely to be adopted.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 18,000.
Enrolled in School	2005: 228 children with disabilities were enrolled, up from 54, 2 years previously. Children with disabilities were 2-3 times more likely to be out of school than other children.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Start made with providing special training to teachers to enable inclusive education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Burundi

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,162,530	Under 18: 5,164,330
Number of Orphans	2013: 73,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income	
Violence	Clashes between army and republican forces.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 99,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 55,000 refugees, 55% of whom were children.	2% of the world's refugees came from here, 293,000 people and 54% of them were children.
Child Trafficking	2010: Child trafficking was a serious problem.	
Malnutrition		
Poverty	There was growing impoverishment, making living conditions precarious for many families.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2010: Estimated 20,000 street children.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2008: No real policy had been developed for children deprived of care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Family structures were badly damaged by the crisis of 1993 and the AIDS epidemic, leading to many single parent and child-headed households and to neglect and abandonment.	
Children in Institutions	2008: 3,000	
Number of Institutions	2012: 98	
State-run/Privately Run	2010: 1 state-run, 43 privately run.	Plus, many illegal orphanages.
Condition in Institutions	2012: Only 3 of 98 institutions met more than 80% of the standards of care, 9 of them met less than 20% of the standards. 2010: An orphanage had recently been closed down because the children were mistreated, they were provided with inadequate food and care.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Placement in a foster family or with extended family was done informally, privately or through an NGO, it was not regulated by law.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: No adoption figures available, because new legislation had only recently come into effect.	2008: Govt. measures were taken to regulate international adoption and prevent trafficking.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1999.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Until 2008 adoption was handled by lawyers, for profit.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2010: Many illegal orphanages were known to seek to make a profit, exploiting children. Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free.
Healthcare	Free for children under age 5.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Measures were taken to protect people with albinism, the law came down hard on people trying to harm them. Special protection included accompanying albino children to school. Parents considered children with disability worthless and pitiful and overprotected them, leading to lack of self-confidence and skills for independence.
Children with Disabilities	2002: 10,558
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: 18,000
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: 10 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	There was only 1 centre equipped to care for children with motor disabilities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Cabo Verde

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 498,900	Under 18: 180,020
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 13.7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2016: Following an outbreak of the Zika virus 21 children with microcephaly ` were identified, of whom 1 died.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2014: Maltreatment, abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and other types of violence. Abandonment had been on the rise since 2006, particularly in urban areas and seemed to be related to parental substance abuse and domestic violence.	
Children in Institutions	2017: Centres serving as temporary shelters had a total capacity of 67, there were also NGO-run centres.	In 2001 there were no residential institutions, they started appearing after that.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	There were institutions run by the state, by SOS Children's Villages, and by ` an NGO, no specific numbers were available.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited, but still widely used.	
Children in Foster Care	2012: 95 children placed.	
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship	When parental rights were suspended, a guardian was appointed, preferably within the family. If the child was over 12 their view had to be heard by the court.	
Children in Informal Care	2012: 1,147 children placed in kinship care.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	In order to adopt, the adoptive parents first must care for the child for enough time for a parental bond to form.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2010.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		

Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	2014: 80% of children who were in emergency centres were reunited with their parents or extended family.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free. Provides transport to secondary school, though struggling to make good on this.
Healthcare	Mother and child healthcare are free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes, for up to 4 children.
Disability Allowance	2016: Parents with children who had microcephaly after the Zika virus outbreak received support with immediate needs (free pass for transportation for 4 months, medical visits, purchase of diapers, and exemption of health fees), plus a social pension.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	There were no institutions, all children with disabilities lived with families, but this was reported as a lack.
Children with Disabilities	2001: 3,157
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Just under 200.
Enrolled in School	2001: 2,905
Enrolled in Special Schools	No special schools existed in 2001.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2001: 2,905
Provision of Community Support	2001: Some 500 children were not enrolled in school and received educational support at home, partially subsidised by the govt.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Cameroon

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 22,253,960	Under 18: 11,037,020
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 1,500,000, of whom 510,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	There have been Boko Haram attacks since 2014 and clashes between the army and a separatist movement.	
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced	2015: 124,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 343,000 refugees, 59% of whom were children.	11,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 27.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2017: 4,992 unaccompanied minors nationwide.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2017: No data available.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2018: State-run reception centres had a total capacity of 160.	
Number of Institutions	2017: No data available.	
State-run/Privately Run	2018: 4 state-run reception centres, 2 SOS Children's Villages.	Voluntourism opportunities suggest many other orphanages.
Conditions in Institutions	2015: Lack of human, technical, and financial resources led to substandard care for children in institutions.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2017: No data available.	
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2017: No data available.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2017: No data available. 2009: 87 intercountry adoptions.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free and compulsory, school meals provided for girls and vulnerable children. Textbooks are distributed.
Healthcare	There are support programmes for orphans and vulnerable children.
Poverty Relief	Distribution of food (dry goods) at schools. Support programmes for orphans and vulnerable children.
Child Allowance	No, due to lacking resources.
Disability Allowance	2010: Partial or full exemption of education fees or govt. contribution towards covering education expenses.
Family Support	No, due to lacking resources.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2008: Estimated 23% of children aged 2-9. 2017: No data available.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 94,000.
Enrolled in School	2017: No data available.
Enrolled in Special Schools	140 private centres catered for people with disabilities, incl. children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: Plans to experiment with inclusive education in 68 pilot schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Central African Republic

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,616,420	Under 18: 2,147,660
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 320,000, of whom 110,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	The govt. was overthrown in 2013, since then there has been unrest. In May 2015 a peace treaty was signed by 10 armed groups. Violence by rebel groups, and by elements of the anti-Balaka resistance, caused enormous loss of human life and severe damage to infrastructure. The crisis caused a near-total breakdown in relations between the Christian and Muslim communities. 2014: War caused 2,807 children to be recruited by armed groups, 146 children killed, 289 children injured or maimed, 406 children aged 7-17 raped, and 37 abductions of children.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced:	2015: 452,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 7,000 refugees, 52% of whom were children.	3% of the world's refugees came from here, 471,000, and 58% of them were children.
Child Trafficking	2016: 39 cases recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 58.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2012: Children were sometimes abandoned because they were accused of being a witch. A high child mortality rate, food insecurity and the prevalence of domestic violence all compounded the challenges that children in the country face.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: Report to the CRC stated that the political and social infrastructure was broken down due to ongoing conflicts, records had been destroyed.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	
Children in Institutions	2016: Normal societal infrastructure appeared to have broken down and the only form of 'institutionalisation' seemed to be housing displaced people in camps.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2016: National guidelines for care of children in temporary foster care families were adopted.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2016: 900 out of 1,933 schools in the country benefitted from projects implemented by Global Partnership for Education and the EU to restore educational services.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Attempts at service provisions for families/children appeared to be primarily focussed on education, for both displaced and returning children. 2016: 7,506 children were included in a programme (with help from UNICEF) for demobilising and reintegrating children who were part of armed forces.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2008: Estimated 31% of children aged 2-9. 2016: No data available. Working as child combatants caused a lot of disability.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 17,000.
Enrolled in School	2014: 67% of children with a disability aged between 6-14 did not have access to any kind of schooling.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2016: 1 primary school for deaf children and a training centre for blind children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Additional Comments

Very little information is available about the country, and any information that can be found, much like the 2016 CRC report, points to a situation of chaos and devastation, with a people who are trying to stay alive and attempt to keep the most basic facilities in place. Any specific information is related to handling the problems of displaced people and rehabilitating child soldiers.

Chad

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 12,825,310	Under 18: 7,091,640
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 980,000, of whom 160,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	An ongoing conflict between the army and Union of Resistance Forces.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 107,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 370,000 refugees, 57% of whom were children.	15,000 people left the country as refugees, 54% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 32.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2009: Hundreds of thousands of street children reported, many of them orphaned.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2007: 658 children separated from their parents.	2007: The govt. did not have a formal strategy for the placement of children in care.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2007: Unaccompanied refugees and children recruited or used by armed forces.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 566	
Number of Institutions	2007: 19	
State-run/Privately Run	2009: 1 state-run, various privately run institutions.	2009: The state-run institution only housed 60 children, because of damage, previously it accommodated 400 and there were plans for expansion to 500.
Conditions in Institutions	2007: Care facilities did not operate properly due to a shortage of qualified staff and lack of standards of protection. 2005: Children were often beaten for minor misbehaviour by caregivers both in families and in institutions, this was considered acceptable due to tradition.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Possibly prohibited in residential care settings, regularly used.	
Children in Foster Care	2008: 8 children placed.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2005: Informal adoption was common and expanding.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2008: 4 domestic adoptions and 1 intercountry adoption.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Around 2007 the 'Arche de Noé' incident took place, in which an illegal attempt was made to remove 103 children for adoption in France.	2007: The govt. expressed concern about international adoption, because it cannot be monitored.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2009: Mouhadjirin children, some of whom attended Quranic schools, were forced by their teachers to beg for food and money.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	2007: ART and necessary medication free. Plans to provide free healthcare to 6,000 orphans.
Poverty Relief	No
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Reduction of fees in private schools.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Children with Down's syndrome or other congenital defects were sometimes accused of being cursed or the product of incest.
Children with disabilities	2007: No data available.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 34,000.
Enrolled in school	2007: No data available.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2007: There were 4 schools for the blind.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Comoros

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 734,920	Under 18: 354,460
Number of Orphans	2016: 22,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	2000: Ruled by a military junta and was politically unstable.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2000: Informal system of poor families fostering their children to wealthier people in the city, who fed and cared for the child in exchange for domestic work, these children rarely attended school.	
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2014: No formal alternative care.	
Reasons for Ending up in care	Poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2014: No institutional childcare.	
Number of Institutions	NA	
State-run/Privately Run	NA	
Conditions in Institutions	NA	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: Did not exist in formal sense.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Traditionally extended families acted as safety nets around parents, who did not have a specific status in relation to their offspring. This left children relatively well protected in crisis situations.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014: No data available.	Islamic law prohibits adoption, but it still took place, under French law.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Not free or subsidised. Only in extreme cases of children suffering in hospitals when the family cannot pay the cost of care, support may be given.
Poverty Relief	No
Child Allowance	No
Disability Allowance	No
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Law did not give right to life or development. No special care available.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Congo (Democratic Republic of the, Kinshasa)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 67,513,680	Under 18: 34,913,630
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 4 million, of whom 350,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	A conflict between the army and a large number of militant groups; a UN stabilisation mission was in progress. In 2011 children constituted 68% of casualties.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1.5 million	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 383,000 refugees, 64% of whom were children.	3% of the world's refugees came from here, 541,000, and 54% of them were children.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2011: 2 million children.	
Poverty	2011: Salaries had not been paid for up to 24 months, leading to extreme poverty among parents. Tens of thousands of children lived and begged on the streets.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Lack of access to basic goods and services, incl. education, healthcare, food and shelters for the internally displaced, worsened the effects of violence and insecurity. Children also faced direct threats of recruitment into fighting forces, at least 3,240 children were confirmed as active in armed groups. 2005: Children were at risk if they were accused of being sorcerers. 2018: Outbreak of Ebola in August, not yet contained.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2011: Children ended up living and begging in the streets because they were orphaned, refugees, abandoned, or children accused of sorcery.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	2018: From the overview of different articles and sites asking for donations and volunteers it looked like the govt. had little infrastructure and that residential childcare was provided by NGOs and faith-based organisations, no statistics were available.
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2012: Conditions in many institutions were dire, with children inadequately cared for, having infrequent access to health and educational services and not having contact with their families.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	Was used, but no data available.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	Was used, but no data available.
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2015: 45 domestic adoptions and 50 intercountry adoptions.	Peaked at 664 adoptions in total in 2013. Before 2005 intercountry adoption was virtually unknown and it was not regulated until 2009.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2006-2009: 4,200 street children were reunited with their family.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2016: Primary education not free, but steps being taken towards that goal. 2011: 300 orphans received free education. 2012: NGOs lobbied to waive school fees for vulnerable children.
Healthcare	2016: 516 health districts providing affordable healthcare.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	2012: NGOs provided support to prevent abandonment of children.

Disability

Attitude	NGOs ran campaigns to raise awareness of rights and needs of children with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	2016: No data available. Working as child combatants caused a lot of disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 66,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

In 2005, before the eruption of another war, there was already little infrastructure and a large proportion of residents had no access to education or health services. Most of the information available comes from the CRC report. The report reads very much like a statement of 'we are fine, it is taken care of, don't worry about us'. This makes it hard to say how complete or realistic the information is.

Congo (Republic, Brazzaville)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,447,630	Under 18: 2,169,720
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 220,000, of whom 64,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income	
Violence	Clashes between army and 'ninjas' (militia).	
Landmines		
Internally Displaced	2015: 8,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 45,000 refugees, 47% of whom were children.	15,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	2006: Some 1,800 children, cross-border trafficking from Benin, and from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 28.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2013: 51.1% of the population lived in poverty.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	When the ceasefire was signed in December 1999, 810,000 traumatised, displaced people (1/3 of the total population) returned from the surrounding forests and grasslands. Half of them were in poor health and severely malnourished, they had lost everything and were often unable to care for their children.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	People traumatised by the war were not always able to take care of their children.	
Children in Institutions	2010: No information available.	
Number of Institutions	2006: 11 orphanages and 10 reception centres.	Only 17% of these were registered. 1 orphanage was closed for poor conditions and 1 was given written notice.
State-run/Privately Run	2010: 1 state-run temporary reception centre for street children and 2 orphanages. Most orphanages were run by private organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions	2010: Many children were living in extremely precarious conditions in orphanages that were neither regulated nor monitored. 2006: Institutions consisted essentially of dormitories with beds fitted with mosquito nets, recreational equipment and health posts.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	When the court withdrew parental rights, a guardian was appointed. These could be individuals such as relatives, or institutions.	

Children in Informal Care	Informal adoption or 'fostering out' was common, extended family was considered responsible for children by law. 2007: 5,311 children 12-17 were heads of household, accounting for 0.6% of the population.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2012: 55 domestic adoptions and 8 intercountry adoptions.	2013: Rare for children to be adopted by non-relatives. Intercountry adoption was only for abandoned children. The law distinguished between full and simple adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2006: Adoption was found to be a form of trafficking occurring. 2007-2008: There was a moratorium on intercountry adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2008-2010: 90 children received help to reintegrate street children.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2008: Steps taken towards making it free.
Healthcare	Free malaria treatment for pregnant women and children under 15.
Poverty Relief	Yes, but limited progress made.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2013: No data available.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 13,000.
Enrolled in School	2013: No data available.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: Estimated capacity of all special schools was 3,000 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: Plans for inclusive education, but at this time no place for children with disabilities in mainstream schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Côte D'Ivoire

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 20,316,090	Under 18: 9,764,950
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 1.3 million, of whom 400,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the republican army and 'invisible forces' militants, ended in 2011.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Trafficking of children by people pretending to be smugglers was a problem.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 15.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2008: 48.9% of the population lived in absolute poverty.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Institutionalisation was the only formal alternative care available.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Disability and removing parental authority.	
Children in Institutions	1996 (latest available): 315 children. 1999: 415 places for children with sensory and intellectual disabilities.	
Number of Institutions	2011: 8 *pouponiers* and 4 orphanages.	
State-run/Privately Run	2011: 12 state-run institutions. The voluntourism opportunities suggested many other privately run institutions.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2017: There was no formal foster care system.	
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship	When parents were deprived of their parental rights, guardianship proceedings were initiated.	
Children in Informal Care	Very young children who lost their parents were usually cared for by their relatives or community.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2009: 100 intercountry adoptions.	The law distinguished between full and simple adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed. Started enforcing in 2015.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	1999: The need to regulate intercountry adoption in view of exploitation of children was mentioned.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	Abandoned children were placed in institutions temporarily while a search was made for their parents. If found, children were reunited, but parents were penalised. If no family was found, the child was put up for adoption.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is officially free, but registration fees are still charged, there are scholarships.
Healthcare	Free up to age 5, plus subsidies, but budget is feeble and decentralised.
Poverty Relief	No
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Some assistance, budget is feeble and decentralised.
Family Support	Only for people employed and insured (10% of the population).

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2017: 25,655
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 72,000 children.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	Education for children with sensory disabilities mostly in special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: Plans for inclusive education, but currently only 1 primary school with special classes. In secondary education children with motor and auditory disabilities went to 11 schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Djibouti

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 872,930	Under 18: 346,700
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 42,000, of whom 8,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict between the army and the 'Front for Restoration of Unity and Democracy'.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 19,000 refugees, 46% of whom were children.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 12.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Formal alternative care appeared to consist of guardianship and institutions.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	The country was in a difficult political and economic situation aggravated by flows of refugees and illegal migrants and the presence of military forces. This led to some mothers giving birth to children they could not or would not raise.	
Children in Institutions	2008: 1,015	
Number of Institutions	2008: 2	2007: Reported there were not enough childcare institutions and that their capacity was insufficient.
State-run/Privately Run	No state-run institutions. A Christian institution long established would take guardianship of abandoned girls. A Kuwaiti NGO ran an institution for boys.	
Conditions in Institutions	The Kuwaiti institution for boys had a capacity of 700.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	The guardian of an abandoned child enjoyed the same rights and assumed the same obligations as those generally recognised to the father and the mother. The responsibilities of the guardian could extend beyond the age of majority.	
Children in Informal Care	Despite economic difficulties, traditional arrangements based on family solidarity were still the main priority.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2008: The law did not authorize adoption, it was not allowed under Islamic law.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	Despite the law not allowing adoption, the Christian institution took children to France to be adopted.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	'Free in principle', textbooks and other necessities are free in primary schools and for girls and orphans in secondary schools. Free meals for poorest children in school canteens. Schools with boarding sections for children from nomadic communities, state-funded. Plans to open mobile schools for nomadic children.
Healthcare	Free hospital treatment to indigents, through a certificate system.
Poverty Relief	Free clothing for poorest children (to discourage dropping out of school due to appearance).
Child Allowance	For orphans and disadvantaged children.
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2007: Govt. campaign led to a significant evolution in perception of disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 1,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2007: Efforts were made to provide inclusive education to as many children with special needs as possible.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Egypt

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 82,056,380	Under 18: 30,121,760
Number of Orphans	2016: 1.7 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict between the army and various groups opposing the new govt.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 78,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 213,000 refugees, 48% of whom were children.	18,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Destination country for human trafficking from Georgia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: Poverty, being orphaned, neglect, abuse, separation of parents, non-acceptance of children by new step-parent, family-violence, and inability of parents to care for the child.
Children in Institutions	2008: 11,902 children, of whom 3,584 children under age 6.
Number of Institutions	2008: 306 care homes and 180 shelters for children under age 6.
State-run/Privately Run	2008: Institutions were run by a partnership between the govt. and civil society organisations.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption. There was no provision for adoption by Christian families.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Despite the prohibition against adoption, a 2011 report mentioned illicit activities concerning intercountry adoption.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Education grants for eligible families. And free for the poor.
Healthcare	Free for abandoned children. 1/3 of cost outside hospitals is covered by the state, for students. Children with chronic illnesses receive free medication and treatment. A 50 cents fee for every visit and 1/3 of the cost of prescribed medicines for ordinary cases. 2008: Ambulances specially equipped with incubators were used to transport abandoned children to the nearest paediatric or general hospital to be given the necessary medical care free of charge and children were kept in hospitals until they were fully recovered.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, means tested, renewed on an annual basis, up to age 18.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 500.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2005: 804 special needs schools accommodated 36,808 students, which accounted for only 1.48% of the total number of children with disabilities at school age.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2008: Start was made with introducing inclusive education. 15 primary schools and 15 kindergartens integrated more than 300 students with a disability.
Provision of Community Support	Aids and prosthetics were exempt of taxes and levies. 2008: Some programmes existed, but only about 1% of the targeted group made use of it.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Equatorial Guinea

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 757,010	Under 18: 340,570
Number of Orphans	2016: 45,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2012: Children trafficked from neighbouring countries, principally for domestic work and for work in markets, sometimes as street vendors.	
Malnutrition	2017: 56% of children aged 0-4 years did not have access to adequate food (which explains the 26% rate of stunting).	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2017: Equatorial Guinea was going through a major economic recession due to the fall of oil prices since 2012-2013.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	To avoid custody battles it frequently happened that when parents divorced a child was placed in boarding school and the parents divided the weekends and holidays between them.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	2004: The govt. was planning to add 2 more institutions to the ones already existing.
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	Few children ended up in formal alternative care, because the extended family network was strong and tended to take in children whose parents were not around or were unable to care for them.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	There was a lack of knowledge and information about adoption, which gave rise to illegal adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2011: There had been illicit activities involving intercountry adoption in recent years.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free.
Healthcare	Paediatric medical consultations, antenatal and postnatal care, and vaccinations are provided for free.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	There was little awareness or recognition that people with disabilities had rights that should be promoted to make them active members of society.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 3,400 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Any existing services were run by NGOs.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

Despite extensive research, little or no reference to alternative care arrangements was found. Even in the CRC report only the barest mention was made of the existence of shelters and the predominance of children being taken in by extended family.

Eritrea

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,333,140	Under 18: 3,117,740
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 180,000, of whom 21,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low income-country	
Violence	Conflict between the army and various groups, as well as tensions on the borders with Ethiopia and Djibouti.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 3,000 refugees, 57% of whom were children.	3% of the world's refugees came from here, 411,000, and 30% of them were children.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2010: 341	
Number of Institutions	2011: 1 (3 were closed down by 1998).	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	2010: 260 children living in 22 group homes.	Group home care was provided when no foster families or adoptive families were available. Up to 12 children with trained caregivers. Based in the communities where the children came from. Host communities were very supportive and provided them with the same rights as any other indigenous person, incl. opening access to residential land when they became adult. Elders visited the group homes and informed the orphaned children about the ethno-history of the community, treating them as part and parcel of the village children.

Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	The govt. encouraged extended families to take care of vulnerable children, incl. finding ways to help with income-generating support. 2010: 67 child-headed households, due to HIV/AIDS.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2010: 10 domestic adoptions.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	2010: 2,058
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The govt. worked to encourage solutions within families to reduce the number of institutionalised children.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free up to tertiary level.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	'Donkey for School' programme, donating donkeys that could be used both to transport children with disabilities to school and to help the family make money. 2008-2010: 876 donkeys were provided.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 3,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2012: Plans for inclusive education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Eswatini (Formerly Swaziland)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,249,510	Under 18: 561,990
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 100,000, of whom 73,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 19.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2005: Families and society resisted formal child protection measures. These were practices they would prefer to remain within the family, *temndeni atingenwa* or *tibi tendlini atikhiswa.* Both statements loosely imply that family embarrassments should not be exposed.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2005: Being orphaned, abandonment, abuse, and disabilities.	
Children in Institutions	2005: 780 children in registered institutions. 116 children with disabilities lived in institutions.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2005: 1 state-run place of safety. All others were NGO or church-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2005: While the state officially monitored institutions, this was not done very systematically.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2005: 48 children were placed with foster families. 5 children with a disability were placed in foster care.	Foster care was relatively rare and usually with the extended family.
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2009: Estimated 15% of households were headed by children. In total 34% of children was raised in kinship care – irrespective of whether parents were still alive – and only 22% by both parents. Customarily, a child might be given to a family within the extended family network. This family then became fully responsible for the child and these children could have inheritance rights, having followed certain customary adoption processes.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2005: 24 domestic adoptions (formal adoption).	The law permitted non-Swazi citizens to adopt Swazi children.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2013.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2009: Less than 3% of children adopted by foreigners originated from an institution.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2004: A study showed that 80% of existing orphanages had been started in the previous 4 years. Some voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2005: Scholarships for tertiary education are provided to children with disabilities.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	2005: Family counselling was not well coordinated and was not seen as a significant part of their job by social workers. There were few childcare facilities for children of working parents.

Disability

Attitude	2005: A national programme, involving child activities to combat negative attitudes towards people with a disability and raise awareness about the need for inclusion. Children with disabilities continued to be viewed as a charity, and many were isolated in institutions with poor service and inadequate organisation and management. Parents of children with disabilities, out of embarrassment and shame, did not send them to well-baby clinics for immunisation and growth monitoring services.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 17,000.
Enrolled in School	2005: No data available on the number of children with disabilities in mainstream schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2005: 253 children. There were 3 special schools for children with sensory disabilities.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2005: Child-to-child peer education clubs were started in schools to develop inclusive education.
Provision of Community Support	2005: Rudimentary services were provided to people with disabilities. Rehabilitation services were often inadequately resourced and understaffed and were not accessible to the majority of children in need of the service. Very few trained therapists were present in the country, often just 1 or 2 per discipline.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

The bulk of the information found is from 2005 and before.

Ethiopia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 94,100,760	Under 18: 47,033,890
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 4 million, of whom 900,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Conflict between the army and various groups.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 450,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 736,000 refugees, 58% of whom were children.	86,000 people left the country as refugees, 43% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking	2012: A Child Trafficking Unit was established at the central bus station through which many of the trafficked children entered Addis Ababa.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 28.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	Recurring droughts	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Parents' HIV status or other chronic illness, and poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 11,920	
Number of Institutions	2012: 149 institutions.	Residential care started to proliferate after the 1985-1986 drought.
State-run/Privately Run	2010: 3 state-run. Of the rest 80% was run by NGOs, 14% was run by faith-based organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions	2010: The govt. announced plans to close 50 orphanages for providing inadequate care and for sending too many children for adoption. A report about all residential homes in Ethiopia, noted that the children suffered discrimination in the local community and were 'frequently subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and exploitation while in institutional care'.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in institutions and schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2015: Foster care was a small-scale, NGO-run programme.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2010: 10% of children were not living with their parents. 2009: 77,000 child-headed households.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 4,500 intercountry adoptions, a sharp increase, from 1,500 in 2005. Domestic adoption was on the increase, in 2011 in 1 state 730 children were adopted domestically.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2010: The govt. planned to close orphanages for sending too many children for adoption. Scandals over child procurement broke out. The boom had brought substantial revenue into the country, as agencies and adoptive parents supported newly established orphanages that became an attractive childcare option for poor families. Some agencies paid fees to 'child finders' locating adoptable children. The influx of Western adoption tourism brought money that trickled down to hotels, restaurants, taxi drivers and other service industries. The govt. revoked the accreditation of an adoption agency, accusing them of child trafficking.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	Officially govt. policy has been towards DI since 1986, but orphanages have been proliferating regardless.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free.
Healthcare	Free neonatal care, ART, vaccinations, and destitute families can get a fee-waiving certificate for 3 years. In medical emergencies if fees cannot be paid, they are waived.
Poverty Relief	Successful voluntary resettlement programmes combined with income generation support.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Awareness raising campaigns in the media were starting to help shift perceptions of children with disabilities, but there was still a negative perception and lack of awareness within the community and among parents.
Children with Disabilities	2011: Only 28.5% of children with disabilities were registered at birth.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 200,000.
Enrolled in School	2014: 48% of children with disabilities had never attended school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2011: 15% of children with disabilities lived in areas with no health services in their communities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Gabon

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,671,710	Under 18: 746,920
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 66,000, of whom 21,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	2002: Child trafficking was a big problem.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2013: Abandonment, which has increased recently, because of the worsening economic situation. Young girls abandoned babies in the street. In 2002 the govt. stepped up efforts to assist these girls and discourage the abandoning of babies.	
Children in Institutions	2013: CRC report mentioned only 1 institution with a capacity of 60-80, but the voluntourism opportunities suggest there are more.	
Number of Institutions	2013: CRC report mentioned only 1, but voluntourism opportunities suggest there are more.	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2000: Foster parents received social support.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2000: There were cases of bogus guardians, who received the social support, without taking the required responsibility.	
Children in Informal Care	The child belonged to the community as a whole, if the parents were unable to care for the child, family solidarity took over.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	1980-1998: 40, by private individuals.	There was both full and simple adoption. The law made adoption difficult.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		

Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory up to age 16.
Healthcare	Free health checks for preschool children and free hospitalisation for all children.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Orthopaedic aids are periodically provided to children with severe mobility problems, and all children with disabilities receive educational grants. Costs for children with disabilities who need to go abroad for treatment are covered by the govt.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Traditionally, children with disabilities were seen as a curse, measures were taken to dispel this myth.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 4,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2002: 3 special schools (2 privately run).
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2002: Children with physical disabilities were accepted in all mainstream schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Most of the information found stems from 2000-2002.

The Gambia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,849,290	Under 18: 971,360
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 83,000, of whom 7,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 8,000 refugees, 48% of whom were children.	8,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Trafficking of children by people pretending to be smugglers was a problem.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 10.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2013: 48.4% of the population lived below the absolute poverty line of $1.25 per day.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	All children placed in institutions between 2011-2013 had a poor family background. Poverty also led to early motherhood, which led to abandonment.	
Children in Institutions	2011: 82 children + 29 teens in youth homes. 2013: 4 children with multiple disabilities in institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2011: 2 SOS Children's Villages.	
State-run/Privately Run	2011: 2 SOS Children's Villages.	
Conditions in Institutions	Children in alternative care lacked an independent complaint mechanism, and there was inadequate review of their placement in institutions, as well as a lack of available trained personnel in this field.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: 47 children placed in foster care.	Intercountry foster care was mentioned, no explanation was given as to what this meant.
Children in Group Homes	All institutional care was provided by SOS Children's Villages, and consisted of group home care.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Most commonly the extended family provided cared for children without parental care. Informal adoption was common.	Informal adoption sometimes led to abuse and exploitation of children, because of lack of monitoring.

Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2016: 16 domestic adoptions and 6 intercountry adoptions.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	Parents of reunited street children received support.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Grants are given to schools to make primary education free. NGOs and faith-based organisations provide financial and in-kind support towards school costs.
Healthcare	2011: Healthcare was declared free for all children, however free healthcare was not available to every poor person.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Mobility aids and orthopaedic materials are provided for free.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	The govt. was conducting sensitisation programmes to try to eliminate social stigma and discrimination of people with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 2,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: 3,000 children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: 4,273 children with disabilities in primary schools, 1,469 in secondary schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Ghana

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 25,904,600	Under 18: 11,600,990
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 990,000, of whom 180,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 17,000 refugees, 43% of whom were children.	23,000 people left as refugees, 64% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking	Trafficking of children for labour by people pretending to be smugglers was a problem. 2014: No data available.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 25% of the population experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	The combination of poverty and HIV/AIDS.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 4,432	
Number of Institutions	2012: 148	
State-run/Privately Run	2012: State-run: 3 residential facilities and 2 transit homes. NGO-run: 145 residential facilities and 3 transit homes.	
Conditions in Institutions	2014: 17 orphanages were closed after they were profiled. Violence was used against children in institutions. 2009: Only 8 out of 148 known orphanages were licensed.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2012: 115	2014: The govt. was developing foster care guidelines.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	The traditional extended family system was breaking down, leading to increased institutionalisation in the past 2 decades.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 112 domestic adoptions, 261 intercountry adoptions.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2017.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2013: A moratorium was placed on intercountry adoption because of a struggle to cope with the high demand for adoption. 2011: A report made mention of illicit activity.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2014: Planning for DI, when they realised that 90% of children in institutions have 1 or both parents still living.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Education grants, school uniforms for children in deprived areas and school food, free transport to school.
Healthcare	National Health Insurance scheme.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Seen as a curse, the treatment in prayer camps for psychosocial problems was to be chained to trees for lengthy periods, denying food and exposing to the sun. The Ga tribe treated people with intellectual abilities with awe. They believed that these people were reincarnations of deities and they were treated with kindness and patience. 2012: Reported that many children with disabilities were admitted to psychiatric hospitals and prayer camps against their will and in places were deprived of food, adequate healthcare and shelter. More work was needed to protect the rights of children disabilities, the law provided a framework, but this was not always translated into reality.
Children with Disabilities	2008: 16% of children aged 2-9.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 35,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	There were some special schools for children with hearing and learning difficulties and children with autism.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Guinea

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 11,745,190	Under 18: 5,746,060
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 670,000, of whom 49,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 9,000 refugees, 45% of whom were children. 2009: An influx of refugees from neighbouring countries, incl. thousands of unaccompanied or separated children.	17,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Trafficking of children for labour by people pretending to be smugglers was a problem.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 17.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2012: 53% of the population lived beneath the poverty line and 13% lived in absolute poverty. In May 2015, 1.9 million people lived in food insecurity, 59,000 of them in severe food insecurity, this was 17.9% of households nationwide.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015-2016: Ebola outbreak.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2009: A unit was set up to look for family-based solutions for children who were not reunited with their families.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Parents' divorce, breakdown of the social fabric, temporary or permanent loss of parents, armed conflict, being orphaned (HIV/AIDS).	
Children in Institutions	There was a 10% rise in numbers between 1997-1999.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	Institutional care seemed to be mainly run by NGOs.	The govt. periodically provided food for the children in institutions.
Conditions in Institutions	2009: Children placed in Quranic schools were often made to do difficult jobs and received no protection. Their lives were put at risk due to lack of medical care and nutritional assistance. The lack of human and financial resources available for child protection institutions exacerbated the already vulnerable situation of separated children. In 2015 a document with standards for institutions was released, but by 2017 almost no one was aware of this.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages operated some of the 'institutions' in the form of group homes.	

Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	All members of the community contributed to the upbringing of the children. However, children placed with relatives in the hopes that they would get an education, were often exploited instead.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Consent of both parents and that of children over 13 was required for adoption. Both full and simple adoption existed.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2004.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	There were voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2012: Final phase towards making education free.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 13,000.
Enrolled in School	2012: The vast majority of children with disabilities was not in school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Significant services, programmes, and projects aimed at children with disabilities were rare.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Although information is provided in reports about each of the relevant topics, statistics are absent.

Guinea-Bissau

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,704,260	Under 18: 817,140
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 120,000, of whom 21,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines		
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 9,000 refugees.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 28.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2011: Poverty reached its extreme in Guinea-Bissau and the country remained lowest in the world on the Human Development Index.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	The degrading state of healthcare and education, infanticide, abandonment of children in reaction to taboos, and child neglect by parents and the community reached worrisome levels.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 411	
Number of Institutions	2012: 6	
State-run/Privately Run	2012: All NGO-run.	The govt. provided some financial support to institutions.
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2012: There was no foster care.	
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages operated in 3 locations.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Children often grew up with an older child looking after them.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Full adoption was only possible if the child was a full orphan or parents were unknown and if the adoptive family had no biological children. Restricted adoption (simple adoption) had fewer conditions.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Because adoption was difficult, some people resorted to falsifying documents.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Access to basic school is free, and school materials are provided (with help from UNICEF).
Healthcare	Sometimes people do not go to the hospital because they cannot afford to.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	There was no social protection and infanticide of children with disabilities occured. They tended to be discriminated against and isolated from the rest of the society as a result of religious beliefs, taboos, unenforced legislation and lack of laws mandating their non-discrimination. Hospitals and schools were not willing to accommodate these children, and the existing medical facilities and special schools were insufficient.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 6,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009: 2 NGO-run schools for the blind and the deaf-mute (govt. provided some financial support).
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2009: No infrastructure designed to make the community accessible for children with physical disabilities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Kenya

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 44,353,690	Under 18: 21,524,380
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 2.5 million, of whom 1.1 million children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and Al-Qaeda linked Somali militia and a separatist group.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 309,000, incl. unaccompanied minors.	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 554,000 refugees, 57% of whom were children.	8,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	2013-2014: 262 children were found to be the victim of child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 19.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015: Estimated 250,000-300,000 children lived in the streets.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2014: Poverty, family breakdown, medical and health crises, abuse or lack of sufficient support services. 2017: Abandonment of babies from young girls or that came from rape often died from exposure, but sometimes they were found and institutionalised, to eventually be adopted. 2009: 13,343 children with disabilities were abandoned by their parents.	
Children in Institutions	2017: 47,900 in registered institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2018: At least 1,500 registered institutions (there were known to be many unregistered ones).	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: 29 state-run, the rest was privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2018: In institutions for children with disabilities there were 4 children to a bed in overcrowded dorm rooms where they were locked in for 13 hours a day – conditions that were life-threatening. There was a culture of neglect in institutions for children with disabilities.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: Foster care was a small-scale NGO-run programme. In 2017 the govt. started showing interest.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2014: Of orphans who did not reside with any parent, 40% lived with their grandparents and 34% lived with other relatives. 2009: 350,877 children were living in child-headed households.	
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	2013: 106 domestic adoptions, 95 intercountry adoptions.	2017: Adopting babies started to become more acceptable.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2007.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	A 2011 report mentioned signs of illicit activity surrounding intercountry adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family	2009: After the 2008 post-election violence, 7,010 children (82.3% of those registered) were reunited with their families by UNICEF, in addition to at least 600 children reunited with their families by the Red Cross.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2017: A conference on DI was held and it was agreed to start making a roadmap for implementing this.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education free and compulsory, secondary education subsidised.
Healthcare	No user fees at primary healthcare facilities.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2018: For children with disabilities the chances to survive, and access to public resources were minimal. That was how most of them ended up in institutions. Stigma against children with disabilities led to infanticide in some communities. Some people believed children with disabilities were outcasts, a curse. Over 40% of parents of children with disabilities had been pressured by people around them to kill their child. 2015: Albinism was classed a disability, meaning that children with albinism were eligible for disability benefits. The govt. was running an advocacy campaign, together with neighbouring countries, to help demystify the myths about the presumed value in body parts of people with albinism.
Children with Disabilities	2018: 10% of the population had a disability.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 190,000.
Enrolled in School	2014: 251,542 children with disabilities in primary school and 14,098 children in secondary school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: 20 schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: 64 schools.
Provision of Community Support	Lacking
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Lesotho

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,074,470	Under 18: 905,630
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 220,000, of whom 150,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 14.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Families continued to be challenged by poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, HIV/AIDS and TB, undermining their ability to care for children. Various forms of family dysfunction led to removal of children.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 1,475	Govt. records were incomplete.
Number of Institutions	2006: 6	
State-run/Privately Run	2006: All 6 were privately run.	The govt. gave some money to institutions, but could not afford to pay cost-of-living.
Conditions in Institutions	2016: Govt. records about conditions in institutions were incomplete.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2016: Formal foster care did not exist, plans for a pilot programme.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2016: Informal foster care and kinship care were widely practised, but families were more reluctant to add children because of poverty.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2013: 22 domestic adoptions, 19 intercountry adoptions.	Adoption law allowed adoption by Europeans, not by Basotho. There was also a stigma on adoption, making domestic adoption rare.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2012.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	In 2007 adoptions were temporarily suspended, when some children were found to have been removed from the country illegally.	Among the population the myth persisted that children were sold to foreign parents, making Basotho parents reluctant to give permission for adoption.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education for age 6-13 is free and compulsory. There are secondary education bursaries and a school feeding programme.
Healthcare	Primary healthcare free for all.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, and provided some assistive devices for free: in 2009-2010 for 483 adults and children. Bursaries and support for education.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Stigma continued to surround disabilities. This ranged from superstitious beliefs that disabilities were contagious to a complete lack of understanding that a physical disability does not impair a child's mental capabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 36,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: 8 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Limited access to mainstream schools due to lack of training and understanding, leading to children with disabilities being turned away. In 2018 steps were taken to make classrooms accessible and to integrate people with special needs.
Provision of Community Support	Physical access to services was a huge hindrance. Schools and services were away from the villages and sometimes in different districts.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Liberia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,294,080	Under 18: 2,118,950
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 200,000, of whom 40,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	The country was war-torn by 2 civil wars between 1989 and 2003.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 37,000 refugees, 56% of whom were children.	10,000 people left the country as refugees, 35% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking	There were concerns about children being trafficked.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 42.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	The country was impoverished.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	There were adverse beliefs that sometimes resulted in the loss of life and fear among children, such as beliefs in witchcraft or mysterious activities in which some children were said to participate. Children were believed to disappear into the ocean. In this way, the disappearance of children was explained and sometimes justified. Ritualistic killing of children. 2004: 11,780 children were demobilised. The govt. was concerned that the lack of sufficient parenting skills among young parents who grew up or were born during the wars might lead to cycles of poor parenting for future generations. 2015-2016: Ebola outbreak.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2009: A strategy for assessing children in alternative care was implemented.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2013: 3,357 (down from 5,000 in 2008).	
Number of Institutions	2013: 83	Before the war there were only 10 institutions.
State-run/Privately Run	2012: 118 institutions were state-run, and 5 residential facilities and 5 transit facilities were NGO-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2008: Only 28 out of 114 institutions met the min. standard of care, more than half were unregistered and unmonitored. Living conditions in some orphanages threatened the children's rights to health, adequate standard of living, and food and water. Most caregivers in the orphanages were not certified as fit and safe to care for children in institutions. Any education provided to the children was of very poor quality. There were laws in place with min. standards and requirements, but these appeared not to be enforced.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited and widely used.	
Children in Foster Care	2012: 77 children placed. There were 2 foster care providers, both NGO-run.	
Children in Group Homes		

Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2016: 20% of children under age 15 lived away from their parents, most of them in informal foster care. Children were placed with relatives to be taken care of, usually with the expectation of household or trading work by the child in exchange. 30.7% of households reported fostering a child.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	There was a lack of formal record keeping on adoption and a discrepancy between the numbers given by different people involved. The Liberian govt. mentioned 68 adoptions to the USA in 2006, while the USA mentioned 353 from Liberia.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2008: The number of adoptions to the USA had almost tripled in 4 years, causing concerns and leading to a moratorium being placed on adoption to the USA. In 2009 all intercountry adoption was suspended due to mismanagement and corruption. The moratorium is to remain in effect until proper adoption legislation is in place. Many children adopted were found by researchers not to be eligible for adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	There has been an increase in the orphanage voluntourism.	
Children Reunited with Family	2009-2012: 637, from institutions. 2007: A study found that 99% of de-mobilised children were reunified with their families.	Follow-up visits to the families were being conducted.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2009: The govt. made plans together with UNICEF and USAID to start work towards DI.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	2012: The law stated it was the duty of the state to provide this support, but this was done by NGOs.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 5,000.
Enrolled in School	2009: 2,984 children with disabilities, from preschool to senior high-school. Children with disabilities did not have the right to compulsory education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	There was no policy on inclusive education.

Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Libya

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,201,520	Under 18: 2,143,180
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	2017: Clashes between militias and forces loyal to the govt. decimated the economy and public services, incl. the public health system, law enforcement, and the judiciary.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2017: 200,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 9,000 refugees, 26% of whom were children.	6,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2000: Parental illness or incarceration, one or both parents passed away, abandonment, and illegitimacy.	
Children in Institutions	1999: 527. 1998: 506 children with disabilities lived in special institutions.	2000: Children had to be free from infectious diseases or disabilities to be admitted to a regular institution.
Number of Institutions	1999: 9 state-run and more privately run institutions.	
State-run/Privately Run	1999: 9 state-run. Unknown number of privately run institutions.	
Conditions in Institutions	1999: A system of fosterage, meaning temporarily fostering children who live in institutions, for example during school holidays.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	Foster parents were required to both be Libyan and of sound moral character. They had to be able to support the child financially throughout the stay.	
Children in Group Homes		

Children under Guardianship	Guardianship was preferably given to a female relative of the child.
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Vaccinations are free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Additional Comments

Most of the information comes from around 2000, which given the political turmoil that the country has been through in the meantime is likely to bear little resemblance to the current situation. And even from that time, few statistics are available.

Madagascar

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 22,924,850	Under 18: 11,303,260
Number of Orphans	2016: 910,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2006: 3 cases of child trafficking recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 42.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2009: 70-80% of the population presented several poverty vulnerability characteristics.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2004-2005: Reports and complaints about the kidnapping of children and the use of falsification were registered.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Placement by a judge in a family or an institution was for 3 months, renewable, but no longer than 2 years.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2009: Abandonment, neglect, or abuse.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 4,560. 2003-2008: 748 children were placed in institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2009: 46 residential facilities in the capital only.	2007: 170 and 192 institutions were mentioned, but 63% of them only provided daytime care.
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2007: 60% of shelters were hard-walled structures. Staff usually had no training for working with children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2003-2008: 54 children were placed in substitute families.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2009: The *fokontany* leaders, as well as various members of the local communities, came to the aid of families facing difficulties through the *fihavanana* framework, a form of community-based mutual aid. 13% of children under age 18 live with neither their mother nor their father.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2012: Fewer than 50 intercountry adoptions (down from over 300 in 2004).	Simple and full adoption both existed, and intercountry adoption was only allowed if there were no other options.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2009: Illegal adoption was discovered. Legislation was amended to prevent it from happening.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Subsidies for registration fees, school kits and school meals for poor families. 2006: In a step towards free education, registration fees for children starting the first year of school were covered by the govt.
Healthcare	Pharmaceutical needs of indigent people are covered. Free or subsidised treatment for some diseases. Community health insurance societies were being tested.
Poverty Relief	Only 7% of the labour force was covered by social security.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	No
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Even among presidents of parents' associations 48% believed that disability was contagious. The NGOs and associations for people with disabilities exerted efforts to raise awareness and promote the rights of people with disabilities, but much remained to be done.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 8,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2011: 11 special needs schools, 1 public, 10 private.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2007: 10% of children with disabilities attended integrated schools, there were 43 throughout the country.
Provision of Community Support	The access of children with disabilities to care remained limited due to financial and geographic obstacles. There was only 1 centre providing live-in rehabilitative care and this was also the only place where children's orthopaedic surgeries were routinely performed.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Malawi

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 16,362,570	Under 18: 8,532,760
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 1.2 million, of whom 790,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low income-country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 9,000 refugees, 55% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	Human trafficking, incl. child trafficking was a big problem.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 25.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2011: 39% of people lived on less than $1 a day, approximately 15% of people lived on less than $0.33 a day. The country ranked 153 of 169 countries on the Human Development Index. 59% of orphans and vulnerable children did not possess 3 minimal material needs (a blanket, a pair of shoes, and more than 1 set of clothing).	
Environment/Climate	2017: Severely affected in the previous 3 years by droughts and floods.	
Other Issues	2015: 400 children were living on the streets.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Parents abandoned their children due to the hunger crisis. Going in search of food, they left their children behind. 2011: 1 in 6 children in institutions had a disability.
Children in Institutions	2017: About 10,000 children lived in or received day care in licensed children's homes.
Number of Institutions	2017: 105 licensed children's homes. But the govt. planned to close 400 orphanages in 2018, so more were known to exist.
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	Regulations for residential care facilities did exist. However, they were generally unknown within institutions. 2017: Cases of violence were recorded in 6 licensed institutions, the perpetrators were prosecuted.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in state-run institutions and schools.
Children in Foster Care	2011: Foster care was not formalised, seen as last resort. 2015: More serious interest in foster care, but no data provided.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2015: The number of child-headed households was soaring. 2011: 12,000 children were living in child-headed households and 11-18% of children were not living with their parents, even with both parents living. Due to the high number of HIV/AIDS deaths, the kinship system was overloaded and could not absorb all children, but most alternative care was still provided informally by the extended family, more than 99% of orphans were living in a household.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	New legislation was being drafted.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2017: 50% of orphanages were reported to recruit children.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2018: The govt. intended to close 400 orphanages and take the children back into the community by the end of the year.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	No concrete plans for working towards free education. Free meals at primary schools.
Healthcare	2017: For children with disabilities access to healthcare was impeded by lack of accessible transport and accessible premises, and children with hearing or speech problems found it impossible to communicate with healthcare staff.
Poverty Relief	2017: Pilot programme for over 1,000 ultra-poor households.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Only 5% of people with disabilities receive support.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2017: The govt. took action against the atrocities committed towards people with albinism and to fast-track the prosecution of perpetrators (sometimes parents even organised the killing of children with albinism).
Children with Disabilities	2017: 45% of 1.8 million people with disabilities in the country were children.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 170,000.
Enrolled in School	2017: 40% of children with disabilities, mainly those in rural areas, did not attend school. 2004: A child with a disability was twice as likely never to attend school as a child without.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Mali

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 15,301,650	Under 18: 8,532,76
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 1.1 million, of whom 79,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	War against Radical Islamist Groups that seized the north of the country.	
Landmines	Suspected residual landmines.	
Internally Displaced	2015: 50,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 16,000 refugees, 58% of whom were children.	154,000 people left the country as refugees, 58% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Children ended up in formal care mostly in urban areas, because of lack of the community safety net.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Education – either because of distance or for placement in *marabouts* –, abandonment, and being orphaned.	
Children in Institutions	2003: 2,411. 1999: 6,067 children lived in Quranic schools.	
Number of Institutions	2003: 12	A shortage of institutions was named as a problem in 2005. Though there was also a public disapproval of institutions.
State-run/Privately Run	2003: 3 state-run, 9 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2005: Shortage of staff, and premises were not always suitable. 2003: The largest state-run institution had a capacity of 1,400 children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2012: Data was not available on how many children were cared for by the community/extended family, as this was not monitored. *Confiage* was common practice. Traditionally parental authority was exercised by the entire community. Girls placed with family members were regularly exploited and made to do the housework.	
Children in Kafalah	2012: Kafalah was practised. Domestically, Kafalah and *confiage* were more common than adoption.	

Children Adopted	2009: 191 intercountry adoptions.	2012: Intercountry adoption was only allowed if the adopters were Malian. The law recognised full and simple adoption. Only children under 5 whose parents were unknown or dead were eligible for adoption for filiation. Adoption for protection was less restricted.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2006.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Children placed in *marabouts* were made to beg on the streets.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012: A shift away from institutionalisation with a focus on developing and promoting family-based alternative care.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Mostly NGOs helped out with costs of education.
Healthcare	Some support for medical help for very poor children, but only partial.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	2015: Yes, officially, but only 200,000 children benefitted from this.
Disability Allowance	Easier access for children with disabilities to scholarships.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 16,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2001: 364 children integrated, there were still problems for children with disabilities in adjusting to inclusive schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Most of the information on institutional care is from 2005 or before.

Mauritania

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,889,880	Under 18: 1,807,940
Number of Orphans	2016: 120,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and the 'Ansar Allah' group, linked to Al-Qaeda.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 77,000 refugees, 56% of whom were children.	35,000 people left the country as refugees, 58% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking	2016: Children were being trafficked to the UAE to act as child jockeys there.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Despite slavery officially being abolished since 1981, in 2018 it still occurred regularly, with children of slaves automatically being born into slavery and if they survived, often being removed from their mothers to work for other families.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2017: 950 children with disabilities were in alternative care.	Children younger than 3 had to be placed in a family setting, with siblings where possible.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Only children with disabilities and those in conflict with the law were mentioned as being institutionalised.	
Children in Institutions	2017: 912 children with disabilities.	
Number of Institutions	2012: 6 (3 residential homes, 3 transit homes).	
State-run/Privately Run	2012: 1 residential home and 1 transit home were state-run; 2 residential homes and 2 transit homes were privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2012: Conditions tended to be dire, with children inadequately cared for, having infrequent access to health and educational services and not having contact with their families.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2017: 38 children with disabilities.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2012: Informal care arrangements were part of the alternative care structure.	
Children in Kafalah	2012: Kafallah was practised, as an alternative to adoption.	
Children Adopted	Adoption had no legal validity, filiation could not be changed.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	All alternative care was seen as temporary and aimed at reuniting families as soon as possible.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Hospitalisation, surgical appliances and medical evacuation for poor children with disabilities is paid for by the govt.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2015: A study identified 110 people with disabilities begging in the street, some of them children.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 650 children under 15.
Enrolled in School	2016: 337 deaf-mute children were enrolled in school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Children with physical disabilities went to mainstream primary schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes, also provision of mobility aids and microprojects benefiting people with disabilities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Mauritius

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,244,400	Under 18: 302,560
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 5% of the population experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2014: Victims of violence and sexual exploitation, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2014: 554. 2009: 69 children with disabilities lived in institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2014: 21	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 40	
Children in Group Homes	2011: 161 children lived in SOS Children's Villages.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Local adoption was handled privately and not monitored.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: Through intercountry adoption 3 foreign children were adopted by Mauritians and 9 Mauritian children were adopted by foreigners.	2014: Intercountry adoptions of children both in terms of foreign children by Mauritian citizens and Mauritian children adopted by foreigners were slowing down.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1999.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The govt. aimed to have children in alternative care reintegrated into their family as soon as possible. This exercise was very slow because of lack of human resource for its implementation and no specific officer earmarked for this activity.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free. Poor and vulnerable children attending pre-primary school receive free transport, daily meals and materials. 200 primary schoolchildren also receive a daily meal.
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	There was an intensive campaign to persuade and encourage parents to register their children at the nearest primary school.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: 966
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010: 60 children. In 2013 a serious effort was made to provide inclusive free primary and secondary education, 13 integrated units were created.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Morocco

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 33,008,150	Under 18: 11,010,280
Number of Orphans	2016: 650,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes in Western Sahara against Moroccan occupation.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 4,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 43,000 refugees, 2% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2014: Tens of thousands of children living in the streets.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2014: Estimated 650,000 children without parental care.	2012: Alternatives to institutionalisations were poorly developed and provided by very few NGOs.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: 6,480 babies were abandoned at birth. Unwed mothers were ostracised by their family and community, making them feel they had no option but to abandon their child. Not only was an unwed mother discrimated against by the community and her child stigmatised, the law stated that she could be punished with imprisonment. Poverty plays a role, but family breakdown in particular led to either children being neglected or abandoned, or to children deciding to take to the streets.	
Children in Institutions	2004: 65,000	
Number of Institutions	2000: 384	
State-run/Privately Run	2004: Most institutions were run by philanthropic organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions	2006: Staff was often insufficiently or not at all qualified and did not have the professional experience or appropriate training. The programmes were not always suitable.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	2000: 208 children in SOS Children's Villages.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah	If the child's parents were unknown, the child was allowed to take on the family name of the Kafeel.	

Children Adopted	Islamic law prohibits adoption, however the *tanzeel* and patronage (Kafalah) were alternatives to the system of adoption. *Tanzeel* was to place the child in a position of a son or daughter, but in terms of inheritance he or she could be granted up to 1/3 of the estate of the father or mother by way of a will.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Children covered by family allowances, also get their medical costs reimbursed.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes (under social protection for wage earners).
Disability Allowance	Yes (under social protection for wage earners).
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 1,000.
Enrolled in School	2004: 74,730; 155,917 had no access to education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010: 428 school integration classes were established, catering for 6,937 children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	2010: Thousands of poor people with disabilities were provided with free aids and orthopaedic equipment. Children were given priority under this programme. Community-based rehabilitation programme was extended, covering 7 sites.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Mozambique

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 25,833,750	Under 18: 13,392,66
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 2.1 million, of whom 810,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Clashes between 'esercito' and Mozambican National Resistance, ceasefires had been signed, but clashes resumed in January 2016.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 5,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 48,000 refugees, <1% of them were children.	
Child Trafficking	Illicit transfer and trafficking of minors and of women, in particular to South Africa via Eswatini.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 26.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: Separation of parents, being orphaned, abuse, and abandonment.	
Children in Institutions	2006: 1,280	
Number of Institutions	2010: 140	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2006: 256 placed in foster families.	Foster care was a new concept.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Seeing if a child can be taken in by extended family members was the first step.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Excl. exceptional cases, adoption was preceded by a period of adaptation of at least 6 months, during which the child was gradually integrated into the family.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		

Children Reunited with Family	2006: 1,111
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Help with school fees and school supplies is given. Scholarships for children from low-income families. Free distribution of schoolbooks at primary level.
Healthcare	Medical and surgical treatment is free for children under 5. Children over 5 only need to pay a small fee for outpatient consultation and medication, the rest is still free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Housing is sometimes provided.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	Unexploded landmines were causing many disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 190,000.
Enrolled in School	2 NGOs were working to train student teachers to work with children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2008: 3 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Namibia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,303,320	Under 18: 988,460
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 150,000, of whom 96,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Suspected residual landmines.	
Internally Displaced	2015: 4,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 45,000 refugees, 1% of whom were children.	30,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 28.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: Death of the main caregiver, abandonment, neglect, and abuse.	
Children in Institutions	2008: 1,008 (living in 36 of 42 known institutions).	
Number of Institutions	2008: 42 (up from 9 in 2002).	
State-run/Privately Run	2008: 1 state-run and 41 NGO-run, only half of them registered.	Registered institutions received state funding, unregistered facilities were NGO/donor-funded.
Conditions in Institutions	2008: In all but 1 of the residential institutions the accommodation was adequate. The staff ranged from untrained carers and volunteers to adequately trained and experienced caregivers. In general, children's health was found to be good. But unregistered institutions remained unmonitored. 2006: Some facilities were reported to be filthy, with no basic health and safety standards, and others were reported to have had incidences of sexual abuse. Fewer than 20% of facilities were qualified to provide support and care for children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2008: Payment was made to over 13,000 foster carers, though most of these were found to be relatives already taking care of children, formalising the arrangement.	Officially relatives were not allowed to be foster parents, they could be kinship carers, though, by formalising the situation. In practice foster care by non-relatives was not common.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	2011: 36% of children were living with neither parent. The majority of children not living with either parent was thought to be cared for by extended family, mainly by grandparents. 2007: 2% of households was child-headed.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2009: Around 80 adoptions a year.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2016.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2006: UNICEF mentioned that some independently run orphanages housed children as a way to raise funds for their organisations, when the children could have been placed with their families.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Officially education is free, but schools are still allowed to raise certain fees. Fees are required to be waived for children who are too poor to pay them, but this is not consistently implemented. Mobile schools have been implemented for (semi-)nomadic children. School-feeding programme for poor children.
Healthcare	Nominal fee of $1 to be paid for healthcare visits, though this should be waived for those who cannot afford it. However, this is not always done.
Poverty Relief	2009: Over 105,000 children received welfare grants to help their families provide care, and support.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities were less likely to be adopted domestically. There was a negative attitude towards people with disabilities in the community. Access to public transport, buildings, employment and information were a problem.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 23,000.
Enrolled in School	2007: 29,853
Enrolled in Special Schools	2007: 1,524
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Niger

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 17,831,270	Under 18: 10,080,500
Number of Orphans	2016: 970,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 11.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2016: 2 cases of child slaves were registered. 2011: More than 11,000 children living on the streets.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2011: Fewer than 100 govt. workers were dedicated to child protection and family welfare.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Protection services registered 520 children who had been abandoned, separated or were unaccompanied.	
Children in Institutions	2017: 1,079 children had been counted in 3 regions in the country, during a study that was still in progress.	2017: The govt. did not have disaggregated information about the numbers of children.
Number of Institutions	2011: 24	
State-run/Privately Run	2011: 1 state-run and 23 NGO-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2012: Conditions in many institutions were dire, with children inadequately cared for, having infrequent access to health and educational services, and not having contact with their families.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited. 2012: In all settings 81% of children between 2 and 14 years of age had been subjected to violent punishment by an adult as a form of discipline and 675 had suffered severe corporal punishment.	
Children in Foster Care	2016: 33 children placed. 2017: No data available on foster care.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2012: *Confiage* was still common practice.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2016: 117 children were adopted through international organisations.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free. Efforts are made to continue to improve quality and accessibility of healthcare services, particularly in rural areas.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, also school allowances, scholarships and equipment grants for children with disabilities studying abroad.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 8,000.
Enrolled in School	2012: 567 children.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: Total of 27 integrated classes had been set up.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Nigeria

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 173,615,350	Under 18: 87,991,680
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 10 million, of whom 2 million children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict between army and Boko Haram, and various ethnic and religious clashes between different groups.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 2.1 million	
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2016: The insurgency led to trafficking of children, where children were promised a better life and education, but in reality they became domestic servants.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 24.5% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2012: Children were sometimes abandoned for being accused of being a witch.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: The increase in unwanted teenage pregnancies was indicated as the cause of the large number of abandoned babies. Also poverty, violence towards children by relatives, and HIV/AIDS.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 3,481	The only number I came across, but in the light of the number of orphanages, this would appear to be a gross underestimation.
Number of Institutions	2016: 520 registered orphanages.	Just within the 25 local govt. areas of Delta state about 86,000 fake orphanages were said to be operating in 2017.
State-run/Privately Run	2015: Very few were state-run, most were operated by charities or faith-based organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions	2017: Conditions in many of the fake orphanages were reported to be extremely bad, many of them operating in shanties and without windows or toilet facilities. Children living in institutions were at particular risk of poor health. The study also found that orphanages with a high child to caregiver ratio had the highest proportion of intestinal helminthiasis and nutritional disorders. The average ratio observed in the study was 6:1. 2016: It was alleged that registration did not mean living up to standards, a bribe would suffice. In an orphanage for children with severe disabilities, toddlers were observed unsupervised and unstimulated, and infants and children lying in cots, mostly unattended. There were 2 nurses engaged in bottle-feeding and they appeared to be in charge of around 60 children between them. In 2015 in the research sample of 30 residential homes there was 'extreme overcrowding' in many of them.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: Only 1 NGO in 1 state ran a successful foster care programme.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2013: About 10% of children lived apart from their parents. 2015: Informal kinship care and informal foster care were the most common forms of alternative care. Because of the lack of monitoring this leaves children vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2012: 200 intercountry adoptions (up from single figures at the start of the century).	Intercountry adoption was prohibited by the Child's Rights Act 2003, except when the adopters were Nigerian. Lagos State suspended adoption because they were overwhelmed by the demand. The stigma of adoption stood in the way of domestic adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2017: A trafficking syndicate known as the 'baby factory' provided accommodation and food to girls who had gotten pregnant. After the birth the mother was offered money for the baby, if she refused the money, she would eventually have to leave without the baby. In October 2016 the sale of 3 babies was confirmed.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2016: There was a disincentive for orphanages to release children for fostering because by retaining children they maximised the possibility of receiving donations needed to remain in existence. Apart from the thousands of illegal orphanages that have been reported, tales of human trafficking and sale of babies were rife. The govt. ordered the closure of 201 illegal orphanages.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education is free at state schools.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 400,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments
Very little information found on family strengthening and the situation of children with disabilities.

Rwanda

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 11,776,520	Under 18: 5,961,170
Number of Orphans	2016: 690,000, of whom 20% of orphans have lost their parents to AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	War and genocide have left the country sharply divided. Clashes between the army and Rwanda Hutu militia.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	2% of the world's refugees came from here and 64% of them were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 41.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	51% of the population lived below the national poverty line and there was fierce competition for limited resources among the poor.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Poverty, being orphaned, and abandonment.	
Children in Institutions	2018: 450 (a sharp decline).	
Number of Institutions	2012: 33	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: More than 25% of orphans was fostered.	Foster care became common after 1994 and has since been formalised. It was seen as a permanent arrangement, unless the biological family could be traced, in which case a family-reunion might take place.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	2016: 90,000 children lived in child-headed households. 2011: 93.7% of children who had lost 1 or both parents were cared for by a relative. Kinship care was the most commonly used form of alternative care.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	There was no 'unoffical' adoption in the country. All adoption proceedings were formal.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2012.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2010: A moratorium was placed on intercountry adoption, because of illicit activities in that area.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some apparent voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2018: The govt. planned to close all orphanages, something critics said was remarkable, because there were very few services for the millions of children living in poverty, in May 80% of children from institutions had already been moved to either home-based or community-based care. The aim was to end institutionalisation in 2022.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is compulsory and free in public and govt. subsidised schools.
Healthcare	A Mutual Health Insurance Policy helps to make healthcare affordable.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	2018: A strong support system was being built to avoid institutionalisation with the help of Hope and Homes for Children. 2 volunteers were trained in each village to recognise vulnerable families and provide help before a crisis situation materialises. Special training was organised for orphan heads of households from all over the country.

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities were less likely to be adopted domestically.
Children with Disabilities	2002: Estimated 93,299.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 11,000 children under 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	Special education was gradually being developed.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

São Tomé e Príncipe

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 192,990	Under 18: 91,910
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 13.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	The Committee was concerned about the lack of preventive measures, safeguards, and procedures for ensuring that children are only placed in alternative care as a measure of last resort.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2013: Abandonment. Family ties were extremely fragile and unstable, mainly because marriage was not common practice.	
Children in Institutions	2018: No information available on number of children, number of institutions, etc. Institutionalisation was not rooted in local culture and was a last resort.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2012: The Committee was concerned about reports of abuse, incl. sexual abuse, at alternative care centres and inadequate govt. response to such violations.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2013: There was no foster care system.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	In general, the extended family volunteered to take in the child.	If the family did not take the child, institutionalisation was the only alternative.
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Min. age of consent was 7 years.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2013: The Committee was concerned that child trafficking occurred through unregulated intercountry adoptions and continued despite the ongoing reform of adoption laws.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free. Vulnerable families receive free uniforms and concession passes for school buses. 1 hot meal a day is provided to students.
Healthcare	Consultations and medication are free for children under age 5, pregnant women, chronically ill people, and children under the national school health programme.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2013: Information campaigns had been organised to combat stigmatisation of children with disabilities, but much work remained to be done to change attitudes. There was widespread stigmatisation of children with disabilities, resulting in social exclusion and marginalisation.
Children with Disabilities	2008: 16% of children aged 2-9.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 500.
Enrolled in School	2008: 68.3% of children with SEN attended school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	There were no special schools or integrated classes.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	All children attending school go to mainstream schools, without any support.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments Very little information found, the bulk of the information is gleaned from the Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations.

Senegal

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 14,133,280	Under 18: 7,073,520
Number of Orphans	2016: 520,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (ceasefire since 2014).	
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Trafficking of children for labour by people who pretend to be smugglers was a problem. According to the UN expert, the estimated 30,000 *talibés* begging in Dakar alone had generated an estimated US$8 million per year for Quranic teachers. Hundreds were also trafficked by *marabouts* to Senegal each year from neighbouring countries.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 11.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2014: 8 cases of infanticide recorded.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Traditionally parents sent their children from a young age to residential Quranic schools for a good religious upbringing.
Children in Institutions	2014: 54,000 children living in Quranic schools in the Dakar region alone.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2014: Many Quranic teachers set up these 'schools' in abandoned or run-down buildings, typically in conditions of extreme squalor. Most *talibés* slept on the floor, unprotected from malaria-carrying mosquitos. The children's days consisted of Quranic studies alternated with up to 10 hours of forced begging on the streets for 'alms' – food or money. Few *talibés* received healthcare or education beyond memorising the Quran. Lessons were often punctuated by corporal punishment, and failure to bring back daily quotas of money could result in severe beatings.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools for 6 to 14-year-olds.
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2014: The *confiage* system was commonly used. 12.5% of children under 18 were fostered in this system. These children were not monitored, making them vulnerable to abuse.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2015: 1 child from the Ziguinchor region was adopted. The law distinguished between full and simple adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2011.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2016: Children attending residential Quranic schools were found forced to beg in the streets. Voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012: A shift away from institutional care was starting, with the development of formal family-based care.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Plans for universal health insurance coverages in 2015.
Poverty Relief	Yes, launched around 2015.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2010: Only 40.9% of children with multiple disabilities were registered at birth. For children with 1 physical disability this was 82.6%.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 5,000 children under 15.
Enrolled in School	2014: 64% of children with disabilities did not attend school (usually due to refusal to accept the child).
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: 5,244 classrooms were adapted for children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	2011: Only 18.5% of children with disabilities surveyed had access to specialised rehabilitation services in their community.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Very little information could be found on any type of alternative care. The information on institutional care is limited to children living in Quranic schools, although other institutions do exist.

Seychelles

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 92,840	Under 18: 24,700
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.2% of the population experienced food insecurity.	
Poverty	2016: Income poverty was at 40%.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2018: 55	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2016: 1 state-run, others church-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	There was still a lack of alternative residential institutions for children who had behavioural problems and were beyond the control of their parents. These children were placed in homes that were not able to assist such children and they did not get the full support they needed for rehabilitation and integration back into society.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2018: 9	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2016: 10	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2008.	Work was ongoing to domesticate the convention.
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	2016: Increase of min. wage and income tax reform to combat poverty.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2018: No children with disabilities lived in institutions.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Since 2015 access improved, and specialised transport facilities were provided to get to school.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Sierra Leone

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,092,080	Under 18: 2,929,680
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 310,000, of whom 22,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Recovering from civil war.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 30.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2008: It was bottom, 179, of the Human Development Index.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015-2016: Ebola outbreak.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	The govt. did not provide alternatives to informal care. They were in the process of developing a National Action Plan when Ebola struck in 2014. For the same reason implementation of the National Child Welfare Policy was severely disrupted.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: 52% of children in institutions were there because of poverty, 30% because their carer had died, 8% because they had been abandoned and 5% because they had been neglected or abused.	
Children in Institutions	2012: About 1,989.	
Number of Institutions	2008: 48 registered (and many unregistered ones).	Up from only 4 before the war.
State-run/Privately Run	2012: All were funded and operated by NGOs and individuals.	
Conditions in Institutions	The number of staff and their level of training differed significantly: while some institutions relied mainly on untrained volunteers and/or have high child-to-carer ratios, others employed a sufficient number of experienced and trained caregivers. In 2/3 of institutions children received 3 meals a day, the remainder served 2 meals, except 1 institution which served only 1 meal per day. Most residences had adequate toilet and bathroom provisions. Although the state of the buildings was generally good, children slept in overcrowded bedrooms with little space for personal belongings or activity. In 96% of care facilities children slept in bunk beds with foam mattresses, each child having their own mattress, in the other institutions, children slept on mats on the floor. Only a small percentage of institutions kept adequate documentation, such as admission, case review and monitoring forms, of each child. The overall health situation of children was good. All but 1% of school-age children were enrolled in the educational system.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	The majority of children in need of alternative care were cared for by extended family. In 2016 17% of children under 15 lived away from their parents. 2010: Deciding about care arrangements for a child who could no longer live with their biological parents was often done spontaneously. Children were considered to belong to the community. There was often a fluidity of these arrangements and a child might live with different households over the course of their childhood. During the conflict in Sierra Leone, thousands of children were taken on by others and remained in these arrangements post-conflict, yet there has never been a culture of formal adoption to make the relationship official.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	The child had to undergo a fostering period of min. 6 months with the prospective adoptive parent(s) with supervision from the govt. to ensure the parents were suitable.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2009-2012: A moratorium on adoptions because of suspicions of trafficking. It was lifted when regulation was in place.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2008: 317. Of the children who remained separated after the war, 98% was reunited with their immediate or extended family.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Children with disabilities qualify for automatic scholarships for tertiary education.
Healthcare	Free for children up to 5 years old, people with disabilities, and Ebola survivors, incl. free transportation to specialised facilities.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Traditional treatment for epilepsy was cuts, burning, and inhaling or drinking potions. The ritual murder of babies with disabilities took place in the interior of the country.
Children with Disabilities	2008: Estimated 23% of children aged 2-9.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 5,500 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2014: Estimated 76% of children with disabilities never attended school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	There were special schools, at least 3 were mentioned.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Somalia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,495,580	Under 18: 5,677,510
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 630,000, of whom 30,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Armed clashes between many different groups. Children form a large part of the victims of the war. In Mogadishu there were still armed conflicts and terrorist attacks every day.	
Landmines	Yes, definitely in Somaliland, suspected in other places.	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1.2 million	
Refugees in 2015	7% of the world's refugees came from here and 50% of them were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	Severe acute malnutrition had intensified food security concerns in the country. About 40% of children suffered from malnutrition in Somalia. 33% only ate once a day.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Outbreaks of polio, measles, and cholera were an additional threat to children's lives. An estimated 2,000 to 3,000 children, sometimes as young as 9, were enlisted in the Somali armed forces. According to UNICEF, the situation was getting worse because the militia transformed schools into recruitment centres and forced teachers to turn their students into soldiers. Somalia is the only autonomous country in the world that has not signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Fearing that they will be recruited by armed forces, some parents prefered to separate from their children and send them to refugee camps on the country's border. 2011: Abandonment of babies born out of wedlock was not uncommon.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	2018: There were many orphanages run by foreigners and faith-based organisations.
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in Somaliland.
Children in Foster Care	2017: Foster care was small scale, NGO-run.
Children in Group Homes	2011: 77 children and 39 youths cared for in SOS Children's Villages.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2017: About 75% of children did not go to school. Many schools had been destroyed in the war and most were located in cities. School costs were also hard to afford for parents.
Healthcare	There are few hospitals and most lack equipment and staff.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	No
Family Support	UNICEF is working with partners to strengthen the community.

Disability

Attitude	2018: Disability was considered a very shameful and sensitive topic. If discussed, it was about physical impairments rather than other types of disabilities. Intellectual disabilities were especially taboo. Adults and children with disabilities in Somalia were subject to various forms of verbal, physical, and sexual abuse at higher levels than their non-disabled peers, often with impunity. Children with disabilities were invisible in Somali society and faced many barriers to inclusion incl. the inaccessible physical environment, lack of awareness in the communities, insufficient teaching skills, negative attitudes and stigma, poverty, and a severe shortage of assistive devices and mobility aids. People with psychosocial disabilities, or mental health conditions, often faced arbitrary detention, chaining, verbal and physical abuse, involuntary medication, overcrowding and poor conditions in institutions, or chaining at home. Children and adults with all types of disabilities often were not included in programmes aimed at supporting people in Somalia, incl. humanitarian assistance.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 5,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	A few, NGO-run.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Very little.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

Somalia has not signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that they do not submit reports under that Convention, leading to relatively little information being available publicly on their alternative care and child protection situation.

South Africa

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 52,776,130	Under 18: 18,366,280
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 3.6 million, of whom 2.4 million children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Thailand.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 22.5% experienced food insecurity. Estimated 66% of children (11.9 million) lived in income poverty.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2013: Estimated 10,000 children lived on the street.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Social services were overstretched, leading to placement in institutions instead of with families. In 2016 the govt. worked to develop the social service system to solve this problem.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2010: Estimated that more than 3,500 babies were abandoned. There was an expectation that abandonment would secure a better future for children. Also abuse, and neglect, with poverty and HIV/AIDS as underlying causes. Children with HIV were overrepresented.	
Children in Institutions	2013: More than 30,000 (this was the capacity of the registered institutions).	30% of children in residential care were below the age of 6.
Number of Institutions	2007: 193 registered and many unregistered.	Registration was required, but often not done. Registered institutions received funding from the govt.
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	There was a wide range of residential care settings, from converted shipping containers and corrugated iron shacks to residential cottages or brick buildings with extensive facilities such as preschools, clinics and swimming pools. In non-registered institutions only 18% of care workers were known to have received a form of child-care training, as opposed to some 80% in registered facilities. In 87% of registered care facilities children had access to a social worker, as opposed to 18% of children in unregistered care facilities.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in all settings but the home.	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 506,911. A steep increase over the past decade.	Placements were mostly with extended family and foster care grants were provided.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	2015: 3,082 child-headed households and 5,917 youth-headed households. 2005: 51% of double orphans lived in grandparent-headed households and 40% lived with other relatives.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014-2015: 1,401 domestic adoptions and 250 inter-country adoptions	There was a cultural barrier to adoption, because tribal belief was that the ancestors will only take care of relatives from the blood line. The child's consent was required if the child was 10 years or older and under 10 years old the child's view had to be taken into consideration if they demonstrated the maturity and capacity to give consent.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2003.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Orphanage tourism was increasing.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	2015: National Health Insurance was piloted in 11 districts. It was free for children with disabilities.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes, followed the child, so was paid out to whomever cared for the child.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Children with intellectual disabilities were 3-8 times more likely to be exposed to violence than other children. The govt. denounced the killing of people with albinism.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 360,000. 2010: Wide-spread belief that children with HIV should not and could not be fostered or adopted.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2015: 118,645
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Steps towards inclusive education were being taken.
Provision of Community Support	2008: Only 1 physiotherapist per 45,000 people and 1 occupational therapist per 53,000 people.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

South Sudan

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 11,296,170	Under 18: 5,522,900
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 570,000, of whom 100,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Conflict between the army and many different groups.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1.7 million, incl. unaccompanied minors. Children were more disproportionately affected by displacement in South Sudan than nearly anywhere else in the world.	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 300,000 refugees, 61% of whom were children.	5% of the world's refugees came from here and 65% of them were children.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty	2014-2016: 83.4% of the population experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Conflict and displacement were exacerbating the deadly effects of malaria, hunger, poverty, and waterborne diseases that continued to take children's lives. The U.N. children's agency estimated that 15,000 to 16,000 children were recruited as child soldiers in the conflict.	

Alternative Care Arrangements	
Children in Alternative Care	UNICEF was working to provide family-based solutions.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	There was no system in place to help separated and unaccompanied displaced children.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	2018: There were many orphanages run by NGOs and faith-based organisations.
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2017: Some orphanages had a capacity of up to 200 children.
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2018: Nothing found on foster care within South Sudan, only on children from the country being fostered in neighbouring countries.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2017: Many orphanages rely heavily on donations from abroad.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	2017: Several schools closed down due to attacks. Fewer children were attending school than before the crisis, also because parents feared being separated from their children in case an incident occurred.
Healthcare	2017: Several hospitals and health clinics shut down, or staff fled, due to attacks.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	Working as child combatants caused a lot of disability.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 18,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

Because South Sudan has only recently become an independent country and has only recently signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, there are no country reports available yet. All available information focuses on the ongoing war situation and the total breakdown of physical and psychological infrastructure in the country, resulting in little relevant information being available.

Sudan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 37,964,310	Under 18: 18,135,280
Number of Orphans	2016: 2 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict between the army and many different groups.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1 million, incl. unaccompanied minors.	
Refugees in 2015	300,000 refugees, 53% of whom were children.	4% of the world's refugees came from here and 58% of them were children.
Child Trafficking	2008: Children trafficked to the Gulf States to be camel jockeys.	
Malnutrition	2015: 2.1 million children under the age of 5 suffered from malnutrition. 2014-2016: 25.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2011: Children constituted 48% of civilian casualties.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2006: A *fatwa* declared that children abandoned by their birth parents should be considered orphans and should receive the same kind of help and care from the govt. and community. The *fatwa* also stated that children should not be punished for the apparent failings of their parents, and it prevented separation of mother and child (common if an unwed mother was brought before the court) unless it was in the best interest of the child.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2003: On average 110 babies were abandoned in Khartoum every month, due to the stigma attached to unmarried motherhood. Half of those were estimated to die before they received assistance, the rest were brought to state orphanages. Disability was also a reason.	
Children in Institutions	2006: 9,966 children with disabilities.	
Number of Institutions	2006: 53 institutions for children with disabilities.	
State-run/Privately Run	2006: 14 state-run institutions for children with disabilities and 39 NGO-run institutions for children with disabilities.	
Conditions in Institutions	The mortality rate at the state orphanage in Khartoum in 2003 was estimated to be over 80%, due to lack of professional health staff, equipment and supplies. Caregiver ratio was approximately 1 nurse to about 20 children. 86% of children had speech problems, 73% had fine motor development problems and all had gross motor development problems. When Médicins Sans Frontières got involved the caregiver ratio increased to 1 nurse for every 3-5 infants. By 2007 the mortality rate had dropped to 18%.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2003-2007: 500 emergency family placements and 2,000 permanent family placements were made after a policy shift.	All children of the foster/adoptive family received health insurance and the school fees of the fostered/adopted child were covered by the state. Hosting services (temporary alternative care): The basic objective of this service was to avoid sending children to institutions. In this case, a child was taken into the care of a family over a period of time, until a lasting solution was found.
	2015: 515 children in hosting services, in the state of Khartoum.	
Children in Group Homes	People were being trained to provide small group home care to children with disabilities, but it was hard to find people willing to take this on.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	The responsibility of looking after orphaned children or those who lost close relatives fell on the extended family, mainly on the mother's side (despite the paternal lineage tradition). After 2 decades of war, families and communities continued to cope with the increasing number of orphans and children separated from their families but in conditions where basic services and infrastructure were lacking. When contact with the extended family was ruptured and options became scarce, children often fled and ended up living on the streets.	
Children in Kafalah	2008: 2 families in the state of White Nile provided Kafalah for all children.	This type of services had 2 categories: Family Kafalah: the care and integration of a child into a family on permanent basis. In the process, the child became a member of the family as natural offspring. Financial Kafalah: This was a financial guarantee (in kind or cash) given by certain individuals who did not wish to offer family care but had the means to provide the financial support to others who were willing to assume the role.
Children Adopted	The stigma of being born out of wedlock and 'being likely to follow the immoral behaviour' of birth parents made people unwilling to adopt an abandoned baby.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	Children returning from displacement camps and refugee camps in neighbouring countries became unused to the way of life in their native villages and started congregating in town centres in Southern Sudan.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	Various NGOs were working together with the govt. to move towards family-based solutions.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free.
Healthcare	Health insurance coverage had increase to 25.5% in 2006. Salary earners and members of their families also have social security cover.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	It was difficult to find families willing to take in children with disabilities who needed alternative care.
Children with Disabilities	

Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 5,000. A widespread belief that children with HIV should not and could not be fostered.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

It proved difficult to find national statistics, most numbers are from one or more particular states.

Tanzania (United Republic of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 49,253,130	Under 18: 25,241,380
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 3.1 million, of whom 1.3 million children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 200,000 refugees, 57% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	2005-2009: 246 children were rescued from trafficking and were integrated back into their families.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 32.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: A lack of formal alternative care due to poor coordination.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	
Children in Institutions	2016: 520 children just in Zanzibar.
Number of Institutions	2016: 22 just in Zanzibar.
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2015: Severe child neglect in shelters for children with albinism. These shelters were not temporary, as originally intended. They were unhygienic, overcrowded, and had limited human and financial resources. Children placed in these boarding schools/shelters were separated from their families and segregated from their community. The children with albinism in these shelters were punished, by prolonged exposure to the sun, leading to the rapid development of skin cancer. They were also subjected to threats and to sexual abuse.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited, except in residential care on Zanzibar.
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2015: Most children without parental care were living in elderly-headed households, child-headed households, in institutional care, and on the streets.
Children in Kafalah	In Zanzibar Kafalah was practised.
Children Adopted	Emphasis was primarily on domestic adoption. The law allowed international adoptions if adopting parents were residents.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2012: 500 street children were reunited with their family.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free to all children aged 7-13.
Healthcare	Delivery services and vaccinations are free. National health insurance was introduced.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	People with albinism were discriminated against, they were thought not to be human or mortal or to be cursed. Albinos sometimes got killed for body parts as witch doctors considered them potent, because of this average life expectancy was in their 30s. A campaign against violence against people with albinism was held in the media in 2012, and those involved in killings were prosecuted. As a result, killings were reduced for a short period. Children with disabilities were subjected to greater abuse, violence, stigma, and exclusion, particularly in rural areas, and especially those children with intellectual and psychosocial impairments. Parents were sometimes reluctant to seek support for children with disabilities, in particular psychosocial impairments, because of the associated social stigma.
Children with Disabilities	2014: 4.5% of the child population.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 250,000.
Enrolled in School	2015: Enrolment in primary education was low. 2008: Children with disabilities who attended primary school only progressed to secondary school at half the rate of other children.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	In Zanzibar all children received inclusive education. On the mainland there were 86 inclusive schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

There is little or no information available on institutional care or other alternative care on the mainland, what was found mostly relates to Zanzibar.

Togo

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,816,980	Under 18: 3,291,560
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 360,000, of whom 95,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2005-2009: 8,412 child trafficking victims.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 11.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 32.4% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2012: Estimated 9,561.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2010: Abandonment, children with mothers who had mental health problems, neglect, abuse, children of divorced couples where custody is an issue, and becoming an orphan at less than 6 months.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 8,539	Placement varied from 2 months to 3 years, except for abandoned children.
Number of Institutions	2012: More than 250.	The list of registered institutions was thought to only include about 50% of the institutions in the country.
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 4 state-run institutions. 2012: More than 250 private institutions.	
Conditions in Institutions	Unregistered centres operated without rules or oversight and tended not to meet the min. conditions for the development of children. Even registered care centres were not inspected adequately. As a result, most care facilities did not meet the basic standards for childcare: a recent study found that in the plateaux region, of the 12 registered alternative care facilities, 5 were found inadequate and 1 barely adequate.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited but widely used.	
Children in Foster Care	2013: A foster pilot project began in April 2012 in 2 districts. There were 15 foster families caring for 117 children. The pilot tested 2 types of foster family: voluntary families that cared for victims of abuse and professional families that primarily cared for children with severe disabilities.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	*Confiage* was widely practised. Children were cared for primarily in the family or extended family, and when severely affected children were removed from their family, it was only for a short time. Due to its informal nature there were few statistics on the numbers of children concerned or their welfare, but a preliminary study suggested that informal fostering was often best practice. However, because the situation was not monitored, it could make children more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 14 domestic adoptions and 14 inter-country adoptions.	The law distinguished between full and simple adoption. 2012: Domestic adoption only cost half as much as international adoption, there were however no plans to reduce this cost. It was thought that the cost of domestic adoption was 1 of the reasons why it was only weakly developed.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2010.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2007: Some irregularities observed in the adoption of children led to temporarily suspending adoptions.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2008: 509 children from shelters were reunited.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free in principle, but this had yet to be extended to all levels of education.
Healthcare	Vaccinations, ART, anti-malarial medication for pregnant women, and Vitamin D are free. Because of a lack of appropriate skills and equipment within the country, some children born with a disability are sent abroad for operations, for instance to France, Spain, and Switzerland, with the support of Terre des Hommes, about 50 per year.
Poverty Relief	Pilot started in 2013 with support from the World Bank.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	2013: 15 non-residential centres (providing social services like day care).

Disability	
Attitude	2011: The govt. worked to put an end to infanticide of children born with a disability or abnormality, practised as a form of purification. Parents underestimated the ability of their children with disabilities to pursue school subjects successfully. People with disabilities were often denied the opportunity to participate fully in their community. This situation was due to material and social obstacles created by ignorance, indifference, fear, and tradition (in some circles, people with disabilities were seen as a curse). A large proportion of communities did not see how a person living with a disability could be of use to society. In most cases, relations of people with disabilities with their families were very strained. They were victims of neglect, discrimination, and condescending pity, which explains their chronic lack of schooling.

Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 21,000.
Enrolled in School	Very few people living with a disability, an estimated 1% at most, attended school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	Most children with disabilities went to private specialised institutions, which received some state funding.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	The school system was not inclusive. Though in 2012 some steps were made towards training teachers in mainstream schools, to make inclusive education possible.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Tunisia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,996,520	Under 18: 3,050,530
Number of Orphans	2016: 130,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and a group linked to Al-Qaeda.	
Landmines	Suspected residual landmines.	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2003: Being born out of wedlock, death of 1 or both parents, divorce of parents, neglect, abuse, and poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 6,583	
Number of Institutions	2007: 93	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 220 children placed in temporary family placements and 12 in long-term family placements.	
Children in Group Homes	2008: SOS Children Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship	2007: 40 children placed under guardianship by the govt. and 18 by associations of community networks.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 228 children were adopted, overseen by the govt., 52 children were adopted through associations of community networks.	Adopted children had the same inheritance rights as biological children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		

Children Reunited with Family	2007: 105 children reunited by the govt. and 49 by associations of community networks.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Vulnerable categories receive free care or care at reduced cost.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 100 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2007: 250 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2007: 3,141 pupils in the 1st cycle of basic education, 478 pupils in the 2nd cycle of basic education, 441 pupils in secondary education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Uganda

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 37,578,880	Under 18: 20,774,230
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 2.4 million, of whom 1 million children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Conflict and civil war.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 500,000 refugees, 57% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 39% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	Households with members who had a disability were found to have lower incomes than other households and to be at greater risk of living below the poverty line.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Abandonment, being orphaned (mostly due to HIV/AIDS and war), poverty (parents hoping to give their child a better life), child abuse and neglect, and disability. Usually it was a combination of reasons.	
Children in Institutions	2018: Estimated 2.7 million.	
Number of Institutions	2013: Estimated 800.	Many institutions were not only unregistered, but unknown.
State-run/Privately Run	The majority of institutions was not state-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2014: Low staff to child ratios were found, not all institutions had social workers, and of the 27 privately run children's homes only 9 were registered as approved babies and children homes, the others were registered as NGOs or community-based organsiations. In the state-run institutions children who were in conflict with the law were placed together with other children. 66% of the children's homes studied provided 3 or more meals a day. The majority of institutions did not have proper staff recruitment procedures.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2015: Foster care was a small scale, NGO-run programme.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2009: A little less than 1% of households was child-headed. Kinship care was usually provided by elderly family members.	
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	Intercountry adoption increased from single figures at the start of the century to over 200 in 2012.	Domestic adoption was promoted through TV and radio advertising, leading to more domestic adoption. Under the law children had to live with prospective adoptive parents for 3 years before they could be formally adopted.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Parents were persuaded to give up their children and these children were sold to US families for around $15,000.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Orphanage tourism was increasing.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	Before the war, in the early 1990s, there was a move towards DI, but this came to a halt. 2018: The govt. announced plans to start closing orphanages country-wide, saying they had already started closing illegal orphanages.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Assistance to keep children in school. Free for 4 children per family, with priority for children with disabilities.
Healthcare	Assistance with healthcare access.
Poverty Relief	Assistance with food security.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2014: 79% of children with multiple disabilities and 58% of children with intellectual impairments were not registered at birth.
Children with Disabilities	Working as child combatants caused a lot of disability.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 190,000.
Enrolled in School	Giving priority to children with disabilities when providing free education for 4 children per family, led to a doubling of the number of children with disabilities in education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Since 2008 work was done to make the curriculum accessible to children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Zambia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1 4,538,640	Under 18: 7,762,610
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 1.4 million, of whom 600,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 45.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2013: Access to education, absence of 1 or both parents and poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2017: 6,413	
Number of Institutions	2018: Said to have the highest per capita orphanage rate in the world.	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: Some state-run and some privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 312 children were placed in foster families.	Foster care had trouble developing, because culturally it went against people's values to have formal contracts in place, they felt the community should take care of vulnerable children without that.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2017: 8,470 child-headed households. With changing society and values the community was not able to handle the demand for alternative care informally.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014: 197, 25% of adoptions were intercountry.	Zambians wishing to adopt, needed to foster a child for 3 months first, after that they were able to adopt. Non-nationals were assessed for 1 year.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2015.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2004-2010: More than 1,000 street children.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	After 2014 there was a decline in institutionalisation, as more children were placed in foster care, reunited with their family, or adopted.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free universal primary education and from 2015 a scheme of reduced fees in secondary schools.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Even teachers who taught children with disabilities were stigmatised and excluded by their colleagues.
Children with Disabilities	2010: According to the census 350,000 people with disabilities, but this was thought to be a gross underestimation. In 2015 an endeavour started to register all people with disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 150,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: Steps taken towards integrated education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Zimbabwe

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 14,149,650	Under 18: 6,580,650
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 1.1 million, of whom 890,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 44.7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2014: 1,081 children stayed on the streets permanently.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, abandonment, disability, and being orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.	
Children in Institutions	2014: 3,977	
Number of Institutions	2015: 16	Between 1998-2001 the number of institutions doubled.
State-run/Privately Run	2015: 8 state-run and 8 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 28 children were placed in foster care.	Fostering was a culturally unfamiliar concept until recently, slowly it was being developed as something people did 'voluntarily', caring for the child as a guest. Traditional beliefs about ancestors made it harder to formally take a child into a family (so formal fostering or adoption) unless the child had the same totem.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2013: Approximately 81% of double orphans lived with their grandmothers. 2003: 98% of children who had lost one or both parents lived with family.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2013: 8 informal domestic adoptions and 2 intercountry adoptions.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Education assistance provided to qualifying families.
Healthcare	Health assistance is provided to qualifying families. Orthoses and prosthetics are subsidised to make them affordable.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	In the Tonga community parents had no problems accepting a child with disabilities and there was no evidence of children with disabilities being hidden. Some communities saw disability as a consequence of witchcraft, promiscuity of the mother during pregnancy, or punishment by ancestral spirits. The govt. educated communities about albinism in order to provide accurate information to dispel myths and misconceptions that result in children with albinism being stigmatised and experiencing discrimination. 2015: People with disabilities experienced more physical and sexual abuse than those without disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 170,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2014: 33 special schools, where 3,541 children were enrolled.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

The Americas

Antigua and Barbuda

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 89,990	Under 18: 27,230
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2017: Destination and transit country for child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 26.7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	Prone to hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods.	
Other Issues	2015: 71% of the population left the country as migrants.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: Abandonment, abuse, neglect, disability, and poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 38	There was no institution for boys who were removed from their family for their protection, only for boys with disabilities. Boys who needed protection were regularly placed in homes for juvenile offenders.
Number of Institutions	2015: 6	
State-run/Privately Run	2015: 1 state-run and 3 NGO-run. Of the other 2 it was not clear who ran them.	
Conditions in Institutions	2015: 6 residential centres housed between 4-9 children each.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 106 children in 52 foster families.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: There was a traditional practice of informal adoptions whereby a mother may place her child with a relative or even a close friend to be raised as that person's child. The parties involved did not regard such an arrangement as an adoption. But this kind of arrangement was tantamount to de facto adoption.	Children in informal care were being monitored.
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Numbers of adoptions remained small, most formal adoption cases were adoptions from abroad.	Children over 12 years old could only be adopted if they gave consent. Adoption started with a 3-month 'placement period' during which there was some supervision and monitoring. Adoption was handled by lawyers.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free. Poor children can get grants for uniforms and books. Free school meals in primary school in 19 poorer areas. School transport for children with disabilities, though this is hampered by financial constraints.
Healthcare	Free at govt. primary healthcare clinics in the community.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2012: AIDS was the 7th leading cause of death of people aged 15-49.
Enrolled in School	2013: Few opportunities for education were available for children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2012: 3 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Argentina

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 41,446,250	Under 18: 12,076,420
Number of Orphans	2016: 630,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes, on the Falklands and Malvinas	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 3,000 refugees, 8% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	2016: 339 children were victims of trafficking or were in the company of adult relatives who had experienced exploitation. Of those 339, 237 were returned to their place of origin.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	89% of children in alternative care lived in institutions. Only 11% of children in alternative care lived in foster families or similar care (of which 9% in public programmes and 2% in private programmes).	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Abuse, neglect, abandonment, child found living in the streets, ill-health of parents, and parents traveling away from home.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 17,063	
Number of Institutions	2013: 642	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 18% state-run and 71% privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2011: 20 infants aged 3-10 months had been found in a room on floor mats with just 1 caregiver.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 1,514	2013: Foster care was a temporary solution, for children who had been abandoned/had no relatives other permanent solutions needed to be sought. There was no specialised foster care system for children with disabilities.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Traditionally there was a system of informal foster care, in which the community helped parents who were struggling.	
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	People who wanted to adopt an Argentinian child had to be Argentinian nationals or to have lived in the country for at least 5 years, right up to the moment of application, this effectively meant there was no intercountry adoption. In 2010 there was a long waiting list for children awaiting adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2013: 54% of children leaving residential care were reunited with their family.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Education is compulsory. Netbooks were provided to 5.3 million children and teachers, for digital inclusion. There is an annual school allowance.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes, also free public transport access for children with disabilities.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2016: 141,999 persons under 18 years of age received a non-contributory pension on the grounds of disability.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 850 children under 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2016: 9.8% of children with disabilities over 3 years old.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2016: 90.2% of children with disabilities over 3 years old.
Provision of Community Support	2016: A nationwide network of 2,301 providers of services for people with disabilities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Bahamas

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 377,370	Under 18: 99,290
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 10% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Maltreatment and abandonment, a strong stigma on children born out of wedlock. 2005: While some children of illegal immigrants stayed with their parents in detention, most were placed in childcare institutions for the duration of their parents' detention. Parents brought children to institutions due to poverty.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	2018: 7 named on the govt. website, though there appeared to be more.
State-run/Privately Run	2005: The majority of institutions were privately run, some with support from the govt.
Conditions in Institutions	2005: 3 girls died in a fire due to being locked in their room. There was a system in place to protect children whose parents tried to remove them 'too soon'.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in residential institutions.
Children in Foster Care	2005: Foster care was provided by both govt. and private organisations.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2005: There was an informal system of foster care and adoption placement.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2018: Non-citizens had to be permanent residents to be eligible to adopt.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education are free at public schools. All children are given uniforms and the poorest a meal.
Healthcare	Primary and secondary healthcare is free for children up to 14 years old. For those older it is provided at token cost and not withheld due to inability to pay.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2005: Cultural taboos still existed concerning children with disabilities. There were still some parents, particularly on the Family Islands, who viewed disability as a stigma and consequently denied their children the opportunity to be educated and trained.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated slightly less than 200.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2005: Most children with disabilities were educated in special schools. Special schools were only present on 3 islands. Not all parents could afford to send their child away for education.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2005: The majority of services were available on the 2 most populated islands.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

Much of the information found is from 2003-2005, and hardly any statistics were provided.

Barbados

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 284,640	Under 18: 65,080
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2017: Country of transit for trafficked children.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2017: Discrimination towards migrant children with regards to access to education and health services.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Emergency foster care was not really available, in emergency cases children tended to be brought to residential facilities.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Physical or sexual abuse, abandonment, not having parents, illness/incapacity of parents, poverty, housing problems, disability, and for the purpose of adoption.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 117	Turnover of children in residential care was high.
Number of Institutions	2017: 10 state-run.	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: 7 state-run institutions and 3 transitional cottages, and an unknown number of privately run institutions.	
Conditions in Institutions	Family visits were encouraged.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2017: 10 children in 8 families, while in 2006 there were 48 children in 45 families.	2017: A shortage of foster families.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Often the children would remain with extended family and once the govt. became aware of this, they would monitor the children there and tried to formalise the foster care arrangement.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2016: 7	Parents could decide to put children up for adoption, often this was done in case of financial difficulty or pregnancy due to rape.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	At least 1 voluntourism opportunity.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free education and transport up to age 16, help available for schoolbooks. And when needed school meals are free.
Healthcare	Free for children up to age 17.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Appropriate therapy provided free of charge, as well as transport to school, therapy, and medical treatment.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2017: Transport to school was provided for 250 children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2017: 3 special schools. 2013-2014: 471 children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: No distinct integration into mainstream schools, but some children with special needs did go there. 2013-2014: 128 children attended special units.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Belize

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 331,900	Under 18: 133,430
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 6.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2002: Reported cases of abandoned offspring of undocumented Central American migrants.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Parents brought their children to institutions if they deemed them 'uncontrollable', also abuse.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 157	2000: 22% of children remained in the institutions for more than a year. Of those staying less than a year, the average stay was 7 weeks.
Number of Institutions	2018: 10	
State-run/Privately Run	2002: Institutions appeared not to be state-run, but monitored by the govt.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in residential care settings.	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 200	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2005: The practice of informal, out of court, adoption was widespread. However, under informal adoption, the child's guardian did not have the same rights as adoptive parents. This posed problems when important decisions affecting the child's life had to be made. Data was not available on the extent of usage of de facto adoption provision.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2001: 46, 2 were intercountry adoptions.	2002: Very few requirements and checks for intercountry adoption.
		It was legal for a non-Belizean not living in Belize to adopt a Belizean child, but not for a Belizean to adopt a non-Belizean child living in Belize.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2006.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2002: Reports of agents of some evangelical churches 'scouting' poorer rural communities looking for children to adopt into families in the USA.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Foreign donations and voluntourism were encouraged. 2002: Very recent development of a non-Belizean group seeking to establish a residential children's facility for a purported 300 children, 'recruited' from as young an age as possible. There was concern that children more appropriately left with their families or in smaller facilities closer to families, or in foster care, may have been volunteered into such care due to better levels of external financing.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2005: Officially free, but parents are still asked for contributions by schools. 42 primary schools have feeding programmes.
Healthcare	2005: Pilot programme with national health insurance.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 500. 2005: Most children orphaned by AIDS lived with their family of origin.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	Priority given to special needs education.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Priority given to integration of children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Most of the information is from 2000-2005.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,671,200	Under 18: 4,401,580
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees, of whom 19% were children.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 20.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014: Poverty headcount of the population was 39.3%.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2014: Poverty, being orphaned, abandonment, neglect, and abuse.
Children in Institutions	2012: 16,981
Number of Institutions	2012: 80
State-run/Privately Run	2012: The majority was privately run.
Conditions in Institutions	Although in 2009 there was improvement in quality of food, supplies of clothing, and school materials in many institutions, in 2012 there was still concern about the absence of sufficient technical, financial, and human resources in institutions. The vast majority of these facilities were not built to house large groups of children.
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited, though acknowledged to still take place.
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2008: Domestic adoption was prioritised, and intercountry adoption was exceptional.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in a variety of countries and had offices in several western countries, mainly for fundraising, operated in Bolivia. There were voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2009: Plans were drawn up to move away from institutionalisation, but still maintained that shelters could not be done away with yet.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Financial incentives for attending school.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Short-term social security payments.
Child Allowance	Scheme to help mothers of children under 2 years old, if they are not eligible for social security payments.
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 1,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2009: Programmes were prepared for integrated education.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

While the existence of foster care and guardianship are mentioned, next to no information or statistics could be found on alternative care other than institutionalisation.

Brazil

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 200,361,930	Under 18: 58,551,650
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and Ansar al-Khilafah Brazil (ISIS affiliate). 2016: The persistence of gang-related violence with high mortality rates was a major concern.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 9,000 refugees, 14% of whom were children. Struggling to deal with a flood of Venezuelan refugees from 2017.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.3% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	The Zika epidemic of children with severe birth defects, in December 2017. 3,037 cases of 'alterations in growth and development' possibly linked to the Zika virus were recognised by the govt., with many more still being investigated. 2013: 23,973 children were reported as either living or working on the streets, though this may be conservative.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2013: 37,861 children were registered as living in formal, alternative care, incl. small group homes, foster care, transit homes, and children's villages.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, violence in the home, substance abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and abandonment.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 36.929 children	2012: Institutions were not allowed to have more than 20 children. The max. limit for staying in a transit home was 2 years.
Number of Institutions	2010: 2,624	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: Religious organisations ran 67% of institutions.	
Conditions in Institutions	2013: Concern over the lack of specialised care and support, coupled with inadequate specialised infrastructure for children with disabilities in residential care. Of the residential facilities surveyed only 12% were reported to have suitable physical facilities.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: 1,010	
Children in Group Homes	2013: 511	2016: Small group homes provided almost 50% of alternative care arrangements.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		

Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2015: The number of children with disabilities who were adopted had grown by 49% compared to 2013, this was attributed by authorities to a changing attitude in society towards disability.	Only full adoption. Intercountry adoption was only explored when the attempts for adoption within the country had been exhausted. There was a recognised fostering period by adoptive parents prior to adoption being authorised. Its length was decided on a case-by-case basis. In the case of intercountry adoption, the min. period spent in such foster care in Brazil was 30 days. During this fostering period there might be a renunciation of the process by any party. There was a growing campaign for domestic adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 13,000 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2005: 640,317: of which 59.9% public schools and 40.1% private schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2005: 301,500 in 2,724 schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2005: 4,325 regular schools offered special classes for 74,010 students. Another 50,259 schools offered regular education to 136,300 students with SEN, integrated in common rooms and receiving specialized pedagogical support. About 188,700 students had no specialized pedagogical support.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Canada

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 35,181,700	Under 18: 7,022,840
Number of Orphans	2016: 45,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 136,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2013: Estimated 62,428 children in out-of-home care.	2012: Most children stayed in care for less than 6 months and most were able to go back to their family – though indigenous children tended to spend longer in care than non-indigenous children.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: Indigenous children were overrepresented, due to poverty, poor housing, and substance abuse by parents. As were children with disabilities. Other than that neglect, emotional maltreatment, exposure to domestic violence, and physical or sexual abuse.	
Children in Institutions	2012: No data on the number of children in residential care, because this was handled by the provinces, which all use different definitions and did not always make distinctions in various care options. 2006: 2,000 children with disabilities over the age of 15 lived in separate special institutions.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in certain settings in certain states.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 47,885	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	To adopt Canadian children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale institutions in various developing countries had offices in Canada for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Mostly free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes. And a tax-assisted savings plan helps parents and others save to ensure the long-term financial security of a child with a severe disability.
Family Support	Yes. 2012: Work done to have more preventative services on reservations, to prevent the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Despite extensive research, no national data was found on numbers of children in alternative care, types of care institutions, and situation in them, because this is decentralised and kept differently from province to province. Data on adoption and children with disabilities was also lacking.

Chile

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 17,619,710	Under 18: 4,532,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 140,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and rebel groups.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 2,000 refugees, 2% of whom were children.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 3.8% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate	Prone to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes.	
Other Issues	Commercial sexual exploitation of children was a problem in the country.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2013: 46 projects covering 3,281 children.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Being orphaned, natural disasters, war, illness, family violence, substance addiction, difficulty accessing healthcare, child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, and migration.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 14,245	2013: The average length of stay in a residential facility for children with disabilities was 9 years, 6 years longer than the average length of stay of a child without disabilities.
Number of Institutions	2014: 332 residential care facilities and 22 homes with 1,586 places for people with disabilities.	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 97% of 332 residential facilities were privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2013: The monthly per capita allowance for children in residential facilities was above the poverty line, but considered insufficient to meet all children's needs. In 2012, 1 caregiver per 8-10 children was required. 2010: 1,131 children disappeared from residential facilities and 75 children died. 2005-2017: 256 children died, many of them due to serious neglect.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 487	2008-2011: An increase of 136% of children with disabilities in foster care.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	2014: 469 domestic adoptions (an increase), and 121 intercountry adoptions.	Intercountry adoption was promoted as an alternative for children with special needs for whom no family could be found domestically. There was a substantial increase in the number of children adopted in this way.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	The mechanism for assessing parenting skills was reviewed, with a view to family reunification.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012: A pilot programme was started to end the institutionalisation of children under 3. The govt. stepped up non-residential programmes and cut back residential systems.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes, through conditional cash transfers.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, incl. full or partial funding for technical aids.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2011: 9,516 technical aids were supplied to 5,033 beneficiaries.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 500 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2011: 183 projects were funded, supporting 514 students.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2012: An inclusive approach was promoted, with active discouragement of creating programmes just for children with disabilities, which could lead to segregation.
Provision of Community Support	9 non-residential projects that could care for 500 children.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Colombia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 48,321,410	Under 18: 16,014,040
Number of Orphans	2016: 820,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict with FARC and ELN. Since August 2016 there has been a 'definitive' ceasefire between the govt. and FARC.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 6,270,000, mostly due to forced displacement.	
Refugees in 2015	In the second half of 2017 about 550,000 Venezuelan refugees have arrived, which the country struggled to deal with.	340,000 people left the country as refugees
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked to Japan.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7.1% of the population was undernourished. 2010: High malnutrition rates among internally displaced people and people living in rural areas.	
Poverty	2013: 33.98% of children and adolescents lived in multidimensional poverty, with levels lower in the cities and higher in rural areas. 2010: Overall in the country 42.7% of children faced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2011: Children constituted 21% of civilian casualties. 2014: 6,593 babies were born to mothers aged 10-14 years. 2013: Estimated 30,000 children living on the streets.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: 15,068 in alternative care and 21,000 children under supervision of the welfare Institute.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Still limited access to education in rural areas, even more so in indigenous communities. Violence and organised crime, as well as disability, violence against children within families, being orphaned, abandonment, and disability or illness of the parents.
Children in Institutions	2016: 10,271
Number of Institutions	2014: 253
State-run/Privately Run	2012: All institutions providing specialised care for children with disabilities were privately run.
Conditions in Institutions	2012: 74 children disappeared from residential facilities.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	There was emergency care, of no longer than 8 days, and longer-term care.
Children in Group Homes	Small group homes were a form of alternative care used.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	

Children Adopted	2006-2009: 4,413 domestic adoptions.	In case of intercountry adoption, the adoptive parents had to stay in the country with the child for at least 2 weeks, before an adoptive decree was pronounced. There was assistance in this period, and if there were problems along the way, the process was prolonged. The adoption of an indigenous child whose adopters were members of its community would take place in conformity with its customs and practices, in line with the indigenous authorities' judicial powers. If the adopters did not belong to the indigenous child's community, the adoption process was subject to prior consultation with and the favourable opinion of the authorities of the original community. Inter-country adoptions were permitted in cases where children were difficult to place within the country.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Adoption law stated that no one could accept any payment for the adoption of a minor. Nor could money be given to parents for handing over their children or pressure be exercised on them to do so.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	Legislation pointed towards family-based solutions, and efforts were made, but the daily reality did not yet reflect this.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Free, up to age 5.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Children with multiple disabilities were not included in the increased move towards family-based solutions. In the development of services and support for families of children with disabilities, the families and the children themselves were increasingly encouraged to have an active part in the development.
Children with Disabilities	2010: Of all registered children aged 0-4, 5.5% had a disability, for children 5-9 it was 10%, for 10-14 it was 12.1%, and for 15-19 it was 10.7%.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 1,800 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	Efforts were being made to give children with disabilities access to education, but there was still a large gap, particularly in rural areas.
Enrolled in Special Schools	

Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2011: There was non-residential and semi-residential support.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Costa Rica

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,872,170	Under 18: 1,396,700
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 4,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from the Philippines.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 4.8% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Family violence, negligence, abuse, disability, and being orphaned.	
Children in Institutions	2014: 692. 2016: 119 children with disabilities.	Of the children with disabilities who were institutionalised, a large proportion was younger than 2 years.
Number of Institutions	2014: 96	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 42 state-run and 54 privately run.	Each organisation took in children of a specific category, age group, or special needs group.
Conditions in Institutions	2010: 304 children disappeared from residential facilities and 7 children died.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2008: 637 foster homes care for 1,300 children.	
Children in Group Homes	2013: 34 shelters (small group homes within the community) and 1 village (collection of shelters) located in different locations throughout the country serving 420 minors each day.	
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	If children with disabilities left institutional care to live with a family, it was usually to live with their own extended family or to be reunited with their own family.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2008: Around 30 intercountry adoptions. 2007: 90 children were adopted. 2015: No adoption of a child with disabilities was registered.	Allowing a child to be adopted by persons residing in another country was considered only when the child could not be placed with an adoptive family in Costa Rica. All minors had the right to express their views and to have those views taken into account in decisions affecting them.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	Some judges of the Family Courts believed that The Hague Convention was applicable only to children and adolescents who were under the care and protection of the state or an NGO, not to children and adolescents whose parents placed them directly with potential adoptive parents.
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2002-2006: 3,731 children and adolescents were able to return to a strengthened home environment following therapeutic interventions that resolved the situation that placed them at risk.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2016: Children with disabilities were often 'invisible' and excluded from programmes that stimulated DI.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes, like free day care for children from poor families.

Disability

Attitude	2016: People with disabilities were viewed and treated according to a medical model.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 100 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2007: 14,965 students with some sort of disability were provided with personal attention, support in the classroom, mobile services, and speech and physical therapy.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Cuba

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 11,265,630	Under 18: 2,253,720
Number of Orphans	2016: 86,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	7,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Severe disability, abandonment, and mental health problems of parents.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2015: All institutions appeared to be state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	Call was made for institutions for people with severe disabilities to be handed to the Church because of appalling conditions, the govt. refused. 2015: The building for people with disabilities was collapsing, there was no paramedical staff to help with handling and washing the people. The institution had more than 200 inhabitants, incl. children and people with very severe disabilities. The majority of the inhabitants were visibly malnourished. Many died over the years, but 2014 was especially bad: 20 people, 9.5%, died. Single caregivers had to do double shifts, providing care for 30 people with disabilities each.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Possibly prohibited in care institutions.
Children in Foster Care	2011: A foster family was a married couple, or 1 or more people related by blood, living in an independent dwelling, and caring for 1 or more children according to the relevant regulations.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	

Children Adopted	2010: 39 domestic adoptions. 2009: 2 intercountry adoptions (Nicaraguan children adopted by Cuban parents), the previous 2 years there were none.	2009: There were no street children available for adoption. Preference was given to Cuban nationals, as there were applications pending from Cuban couples who could not have biological children and wished to adopt.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2007.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free for children.
Poverty Relief	There is a general social security programme.
Child Allowance	Until the child's first birthday.
Disability Allowance	Provides a salary for mothers with children with disabilities who do not have a job.
Family Support	Free day care is provided.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 100 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2011: Children whose physical limitations prevented them from attending school were educated by mobile teachers. 864 mobile teachers, giving lessons to 1,526 pupils.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010-2011: Over 40,176 children were enrolled in special education courses in 391 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Most of the information found comes from the reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and there is a sense of propaganda to the information given there.

Dominica

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 72,000	Under 18: 22,200
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	Hit hard by hurricane Irma in 2017.	
Other Issues	2015: 96% of the population left the country as migrants.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2002: There were mothers who voluntarily put their child into foster care. These were teenage mothers or those without the means and capability to adequately care for the child. Being orphaned, neglect, or abuse.	
Children in Institutions	2002: No residential childcare institutions.	
Number of Institutions	NA	
State-run/Privately Run	NA	
Conditions in Institutions	NA	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 84	Children in foster care were often on long-term stay. The programme was encountering certain difficulties. Foremost among these was the inability to secure the services of enough foster parents. Persons showed an interest in young children, while most needing care were in the region of 10 years and over. There was an ongoing programme aimed at securing the services of foster parents. The remuneration paid to foster parents was recently doubled.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	If a child had been abandoned, no parental consent was needed for adoption. Adoption of children was permitted after investigation of the child's circumstances and the suitability of petitioners. Adoption was usually undertaken by the child's relatives.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Basically free, but sometimes fees are charged. School feeding programme and a programme to help with the cost of books.
Healthcare	Primary healthcare is free for children up to age 16.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Parents who are destitute and have a child with severe disabilities, are given a monthly allowance to enable them to stay home and care for their child.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2002: Only 2 special education institutions (not residential).
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes, incl. home care.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Much of the data found is from 2002.

Dominican Republic

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,403,760	Under 18: 3,730,610
Number of Orphans	2016: 190,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees, 30% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 13.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	Hit hard by hurricane Irma in 2017.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2011: CRC report mentioned only institutionalisation and adoption as forms of alternative care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2011: Abandonment and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 3,030. 403 of these children stayed in temporary shelters, for no more than 6 months. 85 children with disabilities lived in a specialised institution.	
Number of Institutions	2012: 80	
State-run/Privately Run	2012: 8 state-run and 72 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2012: 12 children disappeared from residential facilities and 4 children died. There were institutions providing care for 123-200 children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	2010: SOS Children's Villages accommodated between 120-136 children per location.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2007: 14.8% of children did not live with either parent.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 20 domestic adoptions, 50 intercountry adoptions.	2011: Measures were taken to make sure adoption was not used indiscriminately.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2007.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2018: The website Together for Good, which solicited foreign donations and voluntourism, mentioned an institution in the country.	

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2015: Children with disabilities were excluded from plans for DI.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Grants for children to attend private education. Uniforms and school supplies for extremely poor children.
Healthcare	Dental care and ophthalmological care provided to children.
Poverty Relief	Yes, conditional cash transfer.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2015: A lack of protection for children with disabilities against abandonment was noted.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 1,400 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2015: A lack of community services and support to allow these children to grow up more or less towards independence and within the community.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Ecuador

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 15,737,880	Under 18: 5,597,780
Number of Orphans	2016: 210,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and a rebel group.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 122,000 refugees.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 12.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 6.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: 3,500 children were in care. 2014: Children in care comprised 82% of children of Mestizos origin, 11% Afro-Ecuadorians, 6% Indians and 1% white.	2016: No formal alternative care arrangements other than institution-alisation.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Abandonment, abuse, neglect, imprisonment of parents, disability, migration of parents, and substance abuse by parents. Also, children who had fled with relatives from the conflict in Colombia and were then abandoned in Ecuador. Being orphaned was the least frequent cause. All children placed in care come from poor families.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 2,520 (down from 4,111 in 2012).	
Number of Institutions	2016: 93 residential institutions were registered.	The 2 forms of residential facilities of-fered were homes for a min. of 30 children and small group homes designed to imitate a family space.
State-run/Privately Run	2012: The majority of childcare institutions were privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2015: There was a lack of funds to provide basic needs, incl. medicine, children's education, and necessary improvements to infrastructure. Residential facilities vary in size ranging from a capacity of 10 to over 100. The poorest conditions were found in state-run institutions. There were reports of maltreatment in some residential facilities, incl. the regular use of harsh disciplinary action. In cases where there was a harsh disciplinary attitude towards children, it was believed this behaviour particularly correlated to a general attitude that children were 'bad' or 'badly behaved'. These attitudes were found in a number of the residential facilities.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	A pilot foster care programme initiated by a non-state service provider with the agreement of the govt. was suspended by the Ministry in January 2016. Only 9 children had been placed or were about to be placed for this pilot.	

Children in Group Homes	2016: There were small group homes where staff called *tias* provided care in residential homes that housed up to 8 children, set within a local community and in SOS Children's Villages.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2016: The most common form of care was informal care within the extended family. This was mostly undocumented and unregulated. 2015: 980 children were placed in supported care with extended family.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2015: 136 domestical adoptions and 15 intercountry adoptions.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2015: 1,098, from institutions.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Social security coverage for health rose to 34% in 2014.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, also for children with HIV/AIDS.
Family Support	Although the govt. had various programmes for services for children and families, specially targeted interventions to prevent family separation were weak and under-resourced.

Disability

Attitude	2015: 5,603 children with disabilities grew up without their families, many of them abandoned at an early age. From 2007-2013 the vice president of the republic had a disability, and a lot was done to find out how many people had disabilities, to provide support, as well as projects to encourage social inclusion.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 660 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2014: 62,431 (78% of children with disabilities aged 3-17) were in the national education system.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2014-2015: 11,473 children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Training for parents and rehabilitation was provided free of charge.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

El Salvador

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,340,450	Under 18: 2,343,560
Number of Orphans	2016: 150,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Intolerably violent environments in cities rife with gang activities. 2016: The murder rates were counted amongst the highest in the world.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 289,000	
Refugees in 2015	15,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 12.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 12.4% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate	Climate change exposed the country's economic vulnerability.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Maltreatment, abandonment, gangs and organised crime, and HIV/AIDS.
Children in Institutions	2014: 3,095
Number of Institutions	2012: 84
State-run/Privately Run	2012: 13 state-run and 71 privately run.
Conditions in Institutions	2012: There were institutions with a capacity of up to 600 children. The average number of children per member of staff was 10. 2012-2015: 50 possible cases of threats or ill-treatment in 16 private and 1 public care centre were investigated. 2010: 128 children disappeared from residential facilities and 3 children died.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	2010-2014: 552 children placed in foster care.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2012-2015: 389
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various countries, with offices in various western countries, mostly for fundraising, operated in El Salvador. Many voluntourism opportunities.

Children Reunited with Family	2010-2014: 903
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Education grants, providing free school supplies and uniforms.
Healthcare	Health grants.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 1,000.
Enrolled in School	2014-2015: The govt. provided 888 mainstream schools and special education schools with technical support in rolling out inclusive education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009: 2,766 students attended special education centres.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2014: 16,688 students with special needs.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Grenada

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 105,900	Under 18: 34,410
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 25.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015: 62% of the population left the country as migrants.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	There was a lack of funding for improving social services on the island. 2012: 96 children were in non-institutional care, incl. both foster care and their families receiving support to be able to take care of them.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2012: 197	
Number of Institutions	2013: 5	All childcare homes within Grenada were licensed.
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 1 state-run and 4 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	Even when they became adults, often it was not possible for institutionalised people to be relocated and they were forced to remain as residents. 2013: In the 1 institution for people with disabilities, of the 39 residents only 10 were children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in childcare homes.	
Children in Foster Care	2007: The govt. partnered with an NGO to implement the foster care programme, so the programme was govt. mandated, but NGO-run.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Some of the challenges that children faced were a result of changes in their social and family structures, which led to high numbers of single parent households and reduced support from extended families.	Informal care was gradually being transformed into a monitored foster care system.
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	There was a lack of oversight and monitoring of both domestic and intercountry adoption. The majority of overseas adoptions were to family members, with the predominant reason being economic: the adopting family members were in a position to provide better opportunities for further education and to remove children who were perceived to be at risk due to weak parental support and supervision.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2018: The website Together for Good, which solicited foreign donations and voluntourism, featured an NGO-run residential institution located close to the cruise pier. Voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free in public schools, and support given for buying schoolbooks to those who cannot afford them. A school feeding programme.
Healthcare	There is no primary screening for the identification of persons with any form of disability.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Many parents kept their children at home or entered into a state of denial once a serious impairment or disability was identified. There was no specific legislation addressing the rights of people with disabilities in Grenada. Insufficient efforts had been made to sensitise society to the needs of children with disabilities and getting the community involved with incorporating children with disabilities into society.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2012: 2 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Guatemala

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 15,468,200	Under 18: 7,298,010
Number of Orphans	2016: 380,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Low middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 251,000	
Refugees in 2015	10,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 15.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2017: Widespread poverty and malnutrition, particularly in rural areas. 2014-2016: 11% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate	Prone to natural disasters, like earthquakes, floods and hurricanes.	
Other Issues	41% of the population was Mayan (indigenous).	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2017: A lack of community-based alternatives to institutionalisation and of foster family services.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Extreme poverty, family violence, neglect, disability, culture of violence, abandonment, and migration.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 5,566	By law children could only be placed in institutions temporarily. Despite this, in 2012 1/3 of children in orphanages were found to have a judicial decree stating that their stay was permanent.
Number of Institutions	2012: 141	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 5% state-run and 95% privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	There was a lack of specialised staff to take care of children (with or without disabilities) and to understand their needs. 2011: Harm inflicted by staff reportedly included use of sticks, restricted access to food, and children forced to stand outside in the hot sun. Residential facilities had high numbers of children living in each residence incl. 1 facility containing 800 residents. 2010: 48 children disappeared from residential facilities and 8 children died.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 4,726 adoptions to the USA. Mixed race and minority children were disproportionately sent for intercountry adoption.	Intercountry adoptions were suspended in 2008. 2012: The govt. raised awareness about domestic adoption and promised that there would be no costs attached to it.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2003.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2012: A study found that adoption became an industry, not just earning money for people who made children available for adoption, but also for the lawyers involved in the adoptions and the hotels hosting visiting prospective parents. It was estimated that in 2007 the adoption industry brought in $100 million a year. Parents were pressured to give consent for adoption. Between 1997-2007 26,203 children were abducted for illegal adoption in the USA, most of them from orphanages. In the worst cases, forced impregnation of birth mothers and abduction of children were used to obtain children for intercountry adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2017: Voluntourism was said to be increasing, fuelling institutionalisation. More and more orphanages were becoming businesses, generating income through foreign volunteers.	
Children Reunited with Family	2012: 928, from institutions.	2006: A study found that 75% of families with children in residential care said that if supported, their child could return to them.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	After modest efforts to create gate-keeping procedures to place more children in family-based care and fewer in institutions in 2008, a change of administration led to the creation of 1 of the largest public childcare institutions in the region for over 900 children. In the first 3 months of 2016 58 children were deinstitutionalised.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2016: Financial aid to access education.
Healthcare	2016: Financial aid to access healthcare. Access to healthcare was a problem. Although there were health clinics, which were staffed, they lacked supplies to be able to provide proper care.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2017: People with disabilities suffered perverse forms of discrimination. Disability rights were overshadowed by other human rights problems and rarely considered in national programmes or international donor programmes.
Children with Disabilities	Over 2 million people lived with a disability, 13% of the population. Only 15% of people with a disability had an income in 2017. 2005: 66% of people with a disability were indigenous (a severe overrepresentation).
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 3,000.
Enrolled in School	2005: Only 5% of children with disabilities attended secondary school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2017: There was a lack of rehabilitation and community-based services.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Guyana

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 799,610	Under 18: 338,340
Number of Orphans	2016: 30,000, of whom an estimated 7,000 orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	1,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	2007: 9 girls below the age of 18 were part of human trafficking cases and brought to the police.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 8.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015: 60% of the population left as migrants.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Neglect and abuse, being orphaned, alcohol or drug abuse, abandonment, imprisonment of parent(s), child found in the streets, poor single parent family, and sexual exploitation.
Children in Institutions	2014: 700
Number of Institutions	2014: 22
State-run/Privately Run	2014: 3 state-run and 19 privately run.
Conditions in Institutions	2014: 1 institution cared for 107 children. The govt. recognised that there were many challenges to overcome in bringing all of the homes in line with the min. standards. 2010: 4 children disappeared from residential facilities. 2006: 55% of administrators of residential institutions said they thought beating children was necessary.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2010: Although foster care had been in existence for decades there was a weak foster care or kinship care consciousness. A collaboration between the govt. and an NGO started to run a pilot foster care programme.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2004: A study indicated that the majority of vulnerable children live with a single parent, elderly grandparents or members of their extended family.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	It is a criminal offence for persons involved in any process of adoption to receive payment.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2010: About 1,300 street children were rehabilitated and reunited with their families since the inception of the project.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory. School uniforms and school feeding programmes for the poor.
Healthcare	Free, incl. medicine and dental care.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	While important progress continued to be made in the expansion of policy, programmes, and support services for people with disabilities, significant challenges remained, not the least of which were attitudes towards disability. It was therefore recognised that there was a need to constantly challenge these prejudices faced by people with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 500 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: 2 special schools, both in the capital.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Legislation provides for inclusive education.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Haiti

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,317,46	Under 18: 4,276,420
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 340,000, of whom 100,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: More than 62,000.	
Refugees in 2015	35,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	A source, transit, and destination country for trafficking children for forced labour and sex work.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 46.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	Recovering from serial natural disasters.	
Other Issues	Economic crisis and political upheaval. Thousands of children lived on the streets.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty and disability, followed by lack of access to basic healthcare, education, or social services.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 32,000	
Number of Institutions	2014: 760	Less than 15% of institutions was officially registered with the authorities.
State-run/Privately Run	2017: 2 state-run and 117 officially registered privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	There was a lot of sexual and physical abuse and neglect. 2015: A study showed that 140 out of 760 institutions (most of them private) needed to be closed immediately because of conditions of extreme poverty that exposed the children to risks of grave harm. 2011: Only 15% of centres met min. standards. As a result, 36 centres were closed, this low number being attributable to difficulties in finding alternative solutions for the children concerned. Children in institutions disappeared.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2010-2015: 17 children were placed in foster care.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	There was a temporary custody mechanism for Haitian families who were planning to adopt nationally. This also regulated de facto custody for families caring for children who were not their own. On average, 81 temporary custody measures were taken each year.	
Children in Informal Care	2013: Private adoption was abolished, to limit the risk of trafficking.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014-2015: 16 domestic adoptions. 2013: 400 intercountry adoptions, down from 2,601 in 2010.	In January 2013 the moratorium on intercountry adoption was lifted, when regulation had been improved.

		The prospective adoptive parents had to spend 2 weeks socialising with the child, under supervision, to ease the transition for the child.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	After the 2010 earthquake children whose adoption 'was already cleared by the court' were agreed to need swift evacuation, in their best interest, to their adoptive families. However, it turned out that not only had not all of the children that were evacuated been matched to families yet, some of them did not have their adoptability status confirmed, this was declared 'forced migration' in 2012. There were scandals over child procurement.	In view of the irregularities observed after the earthquake, receiving countries, with the exception of the United States, suspended adoptions in May 2010.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	There were reports of children's homes managers admitting that they keep the children thin, because this brought in more money. Lots of foreign donations for orphanages was driving the opening of orphanages for profit. Children were recruited for orphanages, parents receiving money to give them up.	
Children Reunited with Family	2012-2015: More than 3,000, most of these children came from children's homes.	Children whose parents retracted their permission for adoption, when they were better informed, were reunited with their families and the families received financial support.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2015: 1.5 million children (poor children, street children, and children from rural areas) had access to free education. School meals provided.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	2015: No, though 'community restaurants' were provided.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2009: Estimated 120,000 school-age children with disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 13,000.
Enrolled in School	2009: 2,000 children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: 23 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Honduras

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 8,097,690	Under 18: 3,390,650
Number of Orphans	2016: 150,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Intolerably violent environments in cities rife with gang activity. In 2016 the murder rates were among the highest in the world.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 174,000	
Refugees in 2015	7,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 14.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2013: Estimated 20,000 children living on the streets. 2011: 350,819 children aged 5-17 were reportedly working.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Working children and HIV/AIDS.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 12,083	
Number of Institutions	2013: 210	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 5% state-run and 95% privately run.	Institutions providing specialised care for children with disabilities were all privately run.
Conditions in Institutions	2014: Various institutions cared for 100-500 children each. 2010: 22 children disappeared from institutions, 2 children died, and 3 children were injured.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2007-2012: 432 children were cared for by 152 subsidised *familias protectoras*, while 4,625 children were cared for by volunteer *familias solidarias*.	*Familias protectoras* were short-term foster families that received payment. *Familias solidarias* were short-term, voluntary foster families, placement in these did not require a court order. There were also *familias substitutas*, these provide long-term, unpaid foster care.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Care in the extended family was promoted.	

Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2012: 30, 9 by Hondurian families and 11 by families of different nationalities.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2007-2012: 33 cases of fraudulent adoption were brought before the court.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various countries and had offices in several western countries for fundraising, operated in Honduras. Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	School lunches are offered.
Healthcare	Deworming service and dental care are offered in public schools.
Poverty Relief	Yes, conditional cash transfers.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 2,000.
Enrolled in School	Many of the children with disabilities and SEN were poor, and this precluded them from having access to educational centres. Furthermore, the schools did not have the necessary infrastructure.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: 2 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010: 6,229 (27%) of 22,418 preschool and primary schools reported that they had children with SEN.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Jamaica

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,783,890	Under 18: 933,780
Number of Orphans	2016: 73,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	2,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	2009: 16 cases of child trafficking were reported.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 8.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2011: Poverty levels were often in excess of 10%.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2017: About 4,700.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: The percentage of institutionalised children that had disabilities was estimated to be 15-20%.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 2,572. 2016: 80-90% of children with disabilities lived in specialised institutions.	Children with disabilities often stayed in institutions for a long time, 'almost forever', as 1 official said.
Number of Institutions	2009: 60	
State-run/Privately Run	2012: The majority of institutions was privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2008: 399 'critical incidents' were investigated. Critical incidents usually consist of matters pertaining to hospitalisation, accidental injury, child abuse (sexual, physical, emotional neglect, and/or maltreatment), and children manifesting uncontrollable behaviour, suicidal ideations, child deaths, and others. 2006: A report mentioned failure to use the required logs and maintain children's records, lack of security, lack of treatment for psychological or behavioural problems, inadequacy of facilities, inadequate levels of supervision, allegations of corporal punishment, inappropriate behaviour management systems, inadequate medical attention and healthcare, and inadequate monitoring systems and practices.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in alternative care settings.	
Children in Foster Care	2009: 1,183 children in foster care in about 900 families.	
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: Families were still seen, as they have been traditionally, as the main safety net, particularly regarding the protection of children.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2009: 108 domestic adoptions and 38 intercountry adoptions.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2018: The website Together for Good, which solicited foreign donations and voluntourism, featured 3 residential institutions in Jamaica. Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	There was a clear strategy being utilised to ensure that children were accommodated in family-based environments with institutionalisation used as a last resort. As a result of this strategy the agency was able to increase the number of children placed in family-based settings from 40% in 2004 to 58% in 2009.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free, but schools still ask for voluntary fees. From 2007-2008 tuition fees for secondary schools have been abolished, leaving only the other school related costs. A school fee assistance programme and a school feeding programme are in place.
Healthcare	There is a National Health Fund, which subsidises medication and other medical costs. As a result of the persisting debt burden and other forms of financial and economic difficulties, the health system continues to be threatened by staff shortages, lack of equipment in some health centres, and the need for improved infrastructure in others.
Poverty Relief	Yes. Although there exists an array of programmes, the take-up rates for some have traditionally been very low, with less than 1% of people applying for them.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2016: People with disabilities were viewed and treated through a medical model. There was also a lack of properly qualified people or a framework for diagnosing and assessing the needs of people with disabilities. Children with disabilities were often kept hidden by families, and thereby deprived of their basic rights, this was enforced by the lack of community support for the care of the child. 2015: No adoption of a child with disabilities was registered. 2011: Despite the many efforts, discriminatory practices persisted against certain groups in Jamaica, incl. children affected by and living with HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities. Awareness campaigns brought some improvement.
Children with Disabilities	2016: There was a lack of systematically registered data on people with disabilities, as well as those institutionalised.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 1,000.
Enrolled in School	A lack of access to educational programmes for children with special needs within their home community continued to present a financial barrier for many families, which resulted in these children being denied a formal education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	

Provision of Community Support	No
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Mexico

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 122,332,400	Under 18: 41,941,700
Number of Orphans	2016: 1.5 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and various drug cartels and various rebel groups. In 2017 drug violence claimed 230,000 lives.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 287,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 3,000 refugees.	11,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	2010: Estimated 20,000 children were trafficked a year. Institutionalised children with disabilities disappeared and were trafficked.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 3.3% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate	Prone to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes.	
Other Issues	2013: Estimated 95,000 children lived on the streets of the principle cities.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2010: Institutionalisation was the norm.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Poverty, disability, abuse, unaccompanied migrant children, domestic violence, neglect, parents asking for children to be taken in, and children presenting themselves voluntarily.
Children in Institutions	2013: 28,107
Number of Institutions	2011: 545, in 29 of the 31 states in the country.
State-run/Privately Run	2011: 93 state-run shelters and 452 privately run shelters.
Conditions in Institutions	Children with disabilities in institutions (both public and private) were neglected and kept permanently restrained, hygiene was often poor, and there was little or no stimulation. Due to lack of oversight children disappeared from institutions. It was found that there was a 'blacklist' for institutions for children and adults with disabilities, of which the authorities knew that they subjected the people in them to severe and life-threatening abuse, but no action was taken against them. 2012: There were institutions with very high capacities.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in institutions.
Children in Foster Care	2010: There was no foster care.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	

Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2011: 202
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2018: The website Together for Good, which solicited foreign donations and voluntourism, mentioned 12 residential institutions across the country. Institutionalised children with disabilities disappeared and were trafficked. Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2011: Reunification of 1,224 children and adolescents with their nuclear or extended family in 29 out of 31 states.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2010: Evidence suggested that instead of closing down large-scale institutions for children and adults with disabilities, more money was being spent on building such facilities.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Tax benefits on educational expenses. Educational scholarships.
Healthcare	Primary and secondary care for children is covered, in addition a Health Insurance Scheme was started to cover an additional 128 specific health interventions for children under 5.
Poverty Relief	Yes. Also, subsidies for childcare for working single parents, and housing assistance.
Child Allowance	Food supplements provided.
Disability Allowance	Housing assistance, educational scholarship for special education.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities were usually institutionalised, because there were no services to help parents in the communities or parents could not afford the medication needed. Children with disabilities were practically never adopted, so they remained in institutions for life. In indigenous communities, people with disabilities and their families were ostracised because it was seen as a divine punishment. Sometimes infanticide was resorted to. Children with disabilities were often not registered at birth.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 2,600 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010: 33 inclusive childcare centres.
Provision of Community Support	A community-based rehabilitation programme improved the support network and the acceptance of indigenous children with disabilities by their own families and their communities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Nicaragua

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,080,480	Under 18: 2,391,690
Number of Orphans	2016: 120,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 30,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 17% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2013: 1,874	
Number of Institutions	2013: 64	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 1 state-run and 63 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2012: 20 children disappeared from residential facilities, 1 child died and 8 were injured. There were very large institutions.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 289 children were placed in foster families.	
Children in Group Homes	2014: SOS Children's Villages accommodated between 104-113 children per location.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 38	In the case of adoptions involving Nicaraguan nationals, there was a 6-month monitoring process.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2003-2006: There were cases of irregularities in the procedures for adoption by foreign couples and financial gain by officials in the adoption council.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various countries, with offices in several western countries for fundraising, operated in Nicaragua. Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Basic and middle education is free and compulsory. School lunches provided and school uniforms for those too poor to afford them.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes, up to age 15, longer if the child is studying or has a disability. There is also an orphan's pension.
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 200 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

No information available about children with disabilities or reasons for ending up in care.

Panama

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,864,170	Under 18: 1,301,300
Number of Orphans	2016: 53,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 40,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 9.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2011: 132 of 1,191 children in care had a disability.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: War, migration, natural disasters, poverty, chronic diseases, HIV/AIDS, disability, and rehabilitation of nutritional status.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 2,073	
Number of Institutions	2016: 59	2011: The state encouraged the non-state sector, to establish residential childcare, through legislation.
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2011: Poor psychological, social, and emotional development of children in residential care. Officially all residential institutions needed a permit to be allowed to operate, but this was not enforced.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	The foster care programme was established in 2013 to provide children and young persons with comprehensive care on a temporary basis, giving priority to placement with members of their biological family.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011-2015: 211, of which 182 domestic and 29 intercountry adoptions.	Required a 6-month trial period for both domestic and intercountry adoption, to see if the child bonded well with the new parents.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The main obstacles hindering DI efforts were the delays in investigations and in the processing of files.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Preschool education for children aged 4-5 is free and compulsory. Merit-based scholarship programmes are still operating, as are support programmes for low-income students from indigenous and rural areas. There is a school snack programme.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 500 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

No information found on children with disabilities.

Paraguay

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,802,300	Under 18: 2,623,400
Number of Orphans	2016: 150,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 21,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation and child labour was a problem. 2008: A start was made in 14 border towns on the implementation of a strategy against child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 12% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2013: 436,419 children aged 5-17 were reportedly working.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Abandonment, being orphaned, poverty, homelessness, domestic abuse, working children, street children, and children of migrant workers.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 807, a significant reduction.	
Number of Institutions	2016: 16	2013: 'Not enough institutions for children with disabilities.'
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 9% of 69 institutions were state-run and 91% privately run, mostly by religious organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions	2011: A facility registered to accommodate 30 children (the max. allowed by law) actually had 199 residents.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2006: 7 children were placed with foster families.	After officially establishing a foster care programme in 2010 more than double the number of children from the previous year were cared for in family-based situations.
Children in Group Homes	2014: SOS Children's Villages accommodated between 97-140 children per location.	
Children under Guardianship	Guardianship was also an option used.	
Children in Informal Care	The practice of *criadazgo*: the placing of children in another family to carry out domestic chores, usually without access to education or basic labour rights.	2010: The govt. was working to move away from informal adoption to prevent harm to children.

Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2006: 14	Intercountry adoption of Paraguayan children was prohibited by law. Once adoption was agreed, the Adoption Centre monitored the child for 3 years.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1998.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2006: 10	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2013: The DI plan was launched, the aim was to complete their DI by December 2013.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Basic education is free in state schools.
Healthcare	Inpatient and outpatient treatment of children under age 19 at state health services is free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2013: The full range of rights of people with disabilities was not ensured in legislation or state programmes. At the time, the state was adopting measures on the deprivation of liberty on grounds of disability, without free and informed consent for lengthy periods of time.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 500 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2013: Less than 1% of children with disabilities were enrolled in schools, and these were almost always special schools, though some did go to ordinary schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Peru

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 30,375,600	Under 18: 10,480,030
Number of Orphans	2016: 550,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and 2 rebel groups.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2018: A baby trafficking ring was rolled up that took babies from poor women to sell them, unclear if this was for illegal adoption or for organ-trade. Women who were trying to have an abortion (illegal in the country) would be persuaded to sell their baby instead.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	Prone to natural disasters, like earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Disability, armed conflict, migration, family violence, ethnic origin, child labour, street living children, substance abuse, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, lack of access to education, healthcare and housing, criminal behaviour of parent(s), illness of parent or child, and malnutrition.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 19,000	
Number of Institutions	2012: 96	
State-run/Privately Run	2012: 28 state-run and 68 accredited privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2012: The Ombudsman found children in residential facilities were punished through enforced domestic work, limiting food, prohibiting visits from family members, and physical punishment. There were institutions with a capacity of up to 1,200 children. 2006: Teenagers exposed the existence of a punishment cell in 1 institution: tiny room, 1.20m high and 1.50m wide, dark, dirty, and foul-smelling, with insects and spiders. In the cell adolescents who made mistakes were locked in, for days or weeks, so that they could 'reflect upon their bad behaviour'.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: 22	Foster care was launched in 2007 but in 2013 it was still in early stages of development.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2006-2012: 1,638 recorded adoptions.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various countries, with offices in several western countries for fundraising, operated in Peru. Voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	2012: 81.7% of children was covered by comprehensive health insurance.
Poverty Relief	Conditional cash transfers and food rations.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 2,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2015: 13,749 families of students with disabilities enrolled in special basic education centres received support.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2015: 9,030 families of students with disabilities in public inclusive education received support.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 54,190	Under 18: 16,710
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Sexual abuse, neglect, and abandonment.	
Children in Institutions	2017: Capacity of 34.	Only children aged 4-19.
Number of Institutions	2017: 1	Only used for temporary placement while family-based arrangements were made.
State-run/Privately Run	2017: NGO-run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Intercountry adoption was allowed but not yet regulated.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		

Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Public schools are free. Support for getting schoolbooks and uniforms available for low-income families. Free school lunch in primary school.
Healthcare	Healthcare at hospitals is free for children under 18 and people over 60.
Poverty Relief	Yes, however only a small percentage of the poor is reached.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2017: No legal provisions that specifically prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities or requiring access to buildings for such people.
Children with Disabilities	2017: No data available.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2017: 2 special schools with 107 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	The education of children with disabilities remained a serious problem in terms of removing the stigma facing those children who are mainstreamed in the public school system and extending education opportunities to children in rural areas who remained in their homes.
Provision of Community Support	Very limited.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

No statistics found for alternative care other than institutionalisation.

Saint Lucia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 182,270	Under 18: 53,370
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 17% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2010: Abandonment, abuse, substance abuse by parents, poverty, and domestic violence.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 40	There was no residential facility for children with severe disabilities. Children with disabilities were placed at the Senior Citizens' Home for the homeless and the elderly.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2014: Boys in need of protection were placed together with boys in conflict with the law. There were no adequate facilities for girls.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2009: 139 children in 102 foster families.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	The child's view was taken into account as part of the pre-adoption screening process.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		

Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2018: The website Together for Good, which solicited foreign donations and voluntourism, mentioned a residential institution on the island. A few voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Public schools are free. Support is available for the cost of uniforms, school transport and schoolbooks, as well as a school feeding programme.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	2009: Social safety net did not adequately protect vulnerable children, single parents, and working age poor.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Support for getting wheelchairs and mobility aids.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2007-2008: 265 students at 5 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Increasingly children with disabilities were given the opportunity to join integrated education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 109,370	Under 18: 33,680
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2013: Abandonment, being orphaned, imprisonment of parents, poverty, homelessness, and mentally or physically disability.	
Children in Institutions		
Number of Institutions	2013: 4	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 2 state-run and 2 NGO-run, faith-based organisations.	Privately run institutions also got state funding.
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: There was no legal framework for foster care, there were some instances of it, but those were NGO-run.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2013: The state provided financial assistance to children through their guardian if they were without parental care.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Apart from a full adoption order, an interim order could be made for a probation period of max. 2 years, during which the situation was monitored and could be amended.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2015: School feeding programme and support for cost of schoolbooks, examination fees and uniforms.
Healthcare	Free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Disability rights and practical programmes were handled by an NGO.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: 3 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: Inclusive education was not mainstreamed, but measures were taken to allow children who were able to attend formal education to be integrated.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

No statistics found for the number of children in any kind of alternative care, nor for children with disabilities.

Suriname

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 539,280	Under 18: 177,070
Number of Orphans	2016: 12,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Disturbed family relationships, disability, and poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 3,000. 2005: 305 children with disabilities lived in institutions.	Higher rate of institutionalisation than surrounding countries.
Number of Institutions	2006: 47 (incl. boarding schools and institutions for adults with disabilities).	
State-run/Privately Run	2006: 1 state-run (there were 2, but the building for girls collapsed in 1994) and 46 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2006: 26. 2005: No children with disabilities lived in foster families.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2012: The system of *kweekjes*, where parents voluntarily place their children in another family, usually for economic reasons, was still in use. There was concern about the lack of oversight for this situation.	Efforts were made to formalise this, but little progress was made.
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2005: 3 children were adopted domestically, none internationally (the previous year there was 1 intercountry adoption).	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Support for getting uniforms, shoes, and school supplies for poor families. School feeding programme.
Healthcare	Free medical care for low-income families.
Poverty Relief	Shelter, food, and clothing provided.
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 100 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2004: Around 20 special schools, each catering to specific special needs. These special schools often were not accessible because of a lack of transportation and other supporting facilities.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2004: About 14 special classes at regular primary schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Trinidad and Togo

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,341,150	Under 18: 330,090
Number of Orphans	2016: 25,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Abandonment	
Children in Institutions	2012: 358	2013: It happened that babies were abandoned at the General Hospitals and remained on the wards for long periods of time until they could be placed at a childcare institution or adopted.
Number of Institutions	The absence of a fully functioning foster care programme encouraged a spurt of small children's homes throughout the country, with differing, sometimes questionable, levels of care.	
State-run/Privately Run	2007: Placements of children in residential institutions by civil society were often done without the knowledge of the govt.	
Conditions in Institutions	While the Division did from time to time receive and investigate reports of abuse such as inadequate physical infrastructure and lack of food, it did not have legislative authority to close down any of the offending institutions. There was a shortage of trained personnel at institutions. Anyone who wanted to open an institution could do so. Over 9 years, 7 members of staff of 1 of the homes were suspended for negligence and physical abuse, the home housed 158 children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in all settings but the home.	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 28	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Adoption procedures included a probationary period, which was for a duration of 6 months. The adoption applicants were required to be domiciled in Trinidad and Tobago. Until the new adoption legislation comes into force, intercountry adoptions are not allowed.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free. For secondary education there are grants to help with books, uniforms, and fees. There is a school feeding programme providing lunches and sometimes also breakfast.
Healthcare	Free healthcare is available in some hospitals. There is a hearing aid grant. Iron supplements and multivitamins are free for children and pregnant women.
Poverty Relief	Food hampers are distributed monthly to poor families. Female-headed households sometimes experience difficulties accessing the different grants, because they are based on the situation of the male.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Prosthetics and orthopaedic equipment are being provided free or at minimal cost.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	There was a general lack of specialised knowledge and access to technology to adequately treat people with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 500.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2007: 33 special schools provided education for 1,500 children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	The majority of students with special educational needs attended regular schools albeit without all of the necessary support services.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

United States of America

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 320,050,720	Under 18: 75,477,900
Number of Orphans	2016: 2.1 million	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked into the US from South Korea and the Philippines.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	100,000 unaccompanied children were apprehended at the Mexican border in 2015-2016.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2010: 408,452 children were in 'out-of-home' care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Abuse, neglect, disability, domestic violence, and parental substance abuse. June 2018: 11,786 children being held as part of the 'unaccompanied alien children programme' (incl. children separated from their parents at the border).	
Children in Institutions	2010: About 69,500 children in residential care.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2018: The largest licensed facility for immigrant children had a capacity of 1,500, and some of the defence contractors running these facilities had no previous experience in childcare. 2014: 1 institution cared for 150 girls aged 9-18, another accommodated 110 aged 0-5. 2013: It was found that a number of shelter programmes for indigenous education effectively ran large-scale institutions, accommodating between 50-150 children. 2010: A study showed the particular emotional, behavioural, and academic problems faced by children with disabilities, which were often not met by residential care systems even in this relatively well-resourced setting. 2002: A study showed that violence against children in residential care was 6 times more prevalent than violence in foster care.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in all settings but the home, in 31 states.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 77% of children in state care were in foster care.	2008: 20-60% of children entering foster care had developmental disabilities, compared to about 10% of the general population.
Children in Group Homes	In principle residential care was small group home care.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2018: 16% of children lived with their grandparents, without their parents present (up from 5% in 1990). And 22% of grandparents provided regular childcare and financial support.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 52,337 domestic adoptions. 2007: Almost 20,000 intercountry adoptions.	Up to late 2007 the USA was the destination country for about half of all intercountry adoptions in the world, then it ratified the Intercountry Adoption Convention and this led to a decline.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Adoption organisations in the US were being shut down when they were found to at the very least enable traffickers to sell children who had been taken from their parents to US families. A high-profile case in 2003, concerning a US adoption facilitator found guilty for committing visa fraud and money laundering, exposed the corrupt system of adoption and links to trafficking in Cambodia.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had offices in the US for fundraising. 2018: The accommodation and 'care' of unaccompanied minors and children separated from their families at the border was largely taken care of by defence contractors and for-profit companies, involving multimillion-dollar contracts.	
Children Reunited with Family	2010: 128,775	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education are free in state schools.
Healthcare	2018: Medicaid and Medicare cover cost of poor people and of those over age 65.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Studies showed that children with disabilities who were in preschool or younger were more likely to be abused than peers without disabilities. Children with disabilities were 36 times more likely to be living in an institution than their non-disabled peers.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Although the USA has signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, no CRC reports are available online. Very little information was found on children with disabilities.

Uruguay

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,407,060	Under 18: 900,940
Number of Orphans	2016: 49,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	The Committee criticised the overreliance on institutionalisation.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Domestic violence, poverty, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 2,192. 2015: Of the 533 children with disabilities in residential institutions, 96 lived in 'regular' institutions and the rest in specialised institutions for children with disabilities. Children with disabilities usually spent far longer in institutional care than those without disabilities.	From 2009 children under 2 years old could not remain in an institution for more than 45 days unless they were there together with their parents or health reasons made it advisable that they stay in a properly equipped centre. For children aged 2-7 the max. stay was 90 days, under the same conditions.
Number of Institutions	2013: 171	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 106 state-run and 65 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2011: 1 institution cared for more than 80 people with disabilities. People were admitted there as children with disabilities, but often stayed on after they became adults.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: 1,348 children and adolescents were looked after in the different types of foster care. 2016: 59 children with disabilities were in foster care, making up 3% of the total number of children in foster care.	
Children in Group Homes	2016: There were also small group homes where up to 15 children were cared for in the house of 1 paid caregiver.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	2014: 98	Both simple and full adoption were recognised.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2013: A pilot test was running for DI of 1 state-run and 1 NGO-run institution, prioritising children under 7, with special priority given to children under 2.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Neonatal screening and vaccination are free and compulsory.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2015: No adoption of a child with a disability was registered.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 100 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2016: The second most given reason for institutionalisation was 'access to specific treatment', which suggests that children were deprived of their right to live with their family in order to receive the support they need.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 30,405,210	Under 18: 10,330,690
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	2016: Gang-related violence leading to high mortality rates were a major concern.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	In poorer areas of 4 states the percentage of children under 5 lacking adequate nutrition had jumped to 71% in December 2017 from 54% 7 months earlier. 2014-2016: 13% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	Country was bankrupt, no services available for people. Food shortages and inflation expecting to reach 13,000% were driving people to looting and fleeing the country.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Venezuela descended into a deep recession in 2014, battered by a drop in global oil prices and years of economic mismanagement. The crisis worsened in 2018. The country has withdrawn from the American Human Rights Convention.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Before the economic crisis (which started in 2014) children were mostly in orphanages due to abuse or neglect, in 2018 most of them were abandoned because their parents were unable to feed them.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 5,000	
Number of Institutions	2018: With the public system over-whelmed, the burden was falling on private facilities run by non-profit organisations and charities.	For years, Venezuela had a network of public institutions for vulnerable children. But in 2018 the institutions were collapsing, with some at risk of closing because of a shortage of funds and others critically lacking in resources.
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2010: 332 children lived in foster care (called substitute families).	Promising practises of foster care developed by NGOs were halted by the govt. by early 2016.
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2008-2010: 1,533	2018: The number of pregnant women seeking to put their children up for adoption jumped.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2008-2010: 1,762	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Registration fees have been abolished. School meal programme. Reduced fares for public transport for schoolchildren.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	2018: The govt. provided free boxes of food to poor families, once a month, though there were increasing delays, as food prices have soared.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 3,000.
Enrolled in School	2014: A large percentage of children with disabilities do not attend school, in particular in rural areas.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

A significant part of the information gathered stems from before the financial collapse of the country, meaning that many of the systems that were in place, may not be available anymore.

Asia

RUSSIA
KAZAKHSTAN
MONGOLIA
UZBEKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
TURKEY
AFGHANISTAN
CHINA
JAPAN
IRAQ
IRAN
PAKISTAN
SAUDI ARABIA
INDIA
BURMA
VIETNAM
LAOS
THAILAND
PHILIPPINES
MALAYSIA
INDONESIA

Afghanistan (Islamic Republic of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 32,350,000	Under 18: 16,781,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 2 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	War against Islamist militants, International Security Assistant Force was involved. 2017: For the 4th consecutive year more than 10,000 civilians were killed or injured in attacks. 2011: Children constituted 61% of all civilian casualties.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1.2 million	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 300,000 refugees, 59% of whom were children.	17% of the world's refugees came from here, and 49% of them were children.
Child Trafficking	A source, transit, and destination country for trafficked children, and 60% of victims were trafficked within the country's borders. 2018: During the last 5 years 667 children who were victims of human trafficking received support and protection.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 23% of the population was undernourished. 2009: 54% of children suffered from chronic malnutrition.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 16.1% experienced food insecurity. 2009: 42% of people lived below the poverty line.	
Environment/Climate	Has significant populations at risk of flooding. 2010: Flooding affected about 50,000 people.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Children who had no parents or caregivers were kept in orphanages.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, education, being orphaned, and loss of the father.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 3,060 (though for 2010 the highest number given is 18,802, without significant DI efforts, so it may be an underestimation).	Residential institutions were mostly resistant to accepting children with disabilities.
Number of Institutions	2016: 72	Not all private institutions were registered, so there could be more.
State-run/Privately Run	2016: Estimated 31 state-run and estimated 41 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2011: Staff (incl. all staff, not only caregivers) to child ratios were extremely low, sometimes less than 1:30 children, during the night there was often much less supervision.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		

Children under Guardianship	Guardians were appointed to children with no caregivers with the task of taking care of them and accounting for their best interest.
Children in Informal Care	2015: Of children aged 0-14 living in a household without parental care 98.1% lived with a relative.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Private institutions have boomed since 2007, often funded by Afghan expats.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Basic education is free.
Healthcare	Free primary care of children. 80% of health centres in districts face a shortage of medicine, medical equipment, and health workers, especially female medical professionals.
Poverty Relief	Income generating projects have been launched.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	2009: The demand for services far outweighed capacity and capability, particularly in rural areas.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2009: Estimated 196,000 children aged 7-18.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 500.
Enrolled in School	All educational institutions (public and private schools) were obliged to provide children with disabilities access to quality education. However, due to a lack of govt. resources and international assistance, many children with disabilities still did not have access to special and standardised forms of education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2018: 1,780 children with sensory disabilities enrolled in 11 special high schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2018: 3,692 children with disabilities from different provinces, under the 'dire needs' special programme.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Armenia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,976,570	Under 18: 723,490
Number of Orphans	2016: 46,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes on the border with Azerbaijan.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 8,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 19,000 refugees.	11,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 2.7% experienced food insecurity. The country had a fragile economy, high rates of unemployment and poverty, and a heavy dependence on external aid. 2016: 33.7% of children was monetarily poor and 64.5% of children was multidimensionally deprived.	
Environment/Climate	2016: Extreme weather and environmental problems such as heavy metals in the water, soil, and food chain were affecting parts of the country.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2010: Donors (often from the diaspora) were very willing to fund institutions, not so much to fund family-based solutions.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Abandonment, disability, poverty, unemployment, inadequate shelter, parents' health problems, disability in the family, and single parenthood. 2013: Around 800-1,000 families temporarily left their children in institutions to take them back again when they could.	
Children in Institutions	2016: Nearly 3,700 children lived in residential institutions: orphanages, special residential schools, and night boarding institutions. (670 of whom had disabilities)	While officially institutionalisation was supposed to be a last resort, it was generally the first step, taken even before a judge had ruled on what should be done with a child.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 6 state orphanages, 8 care and protection boarding institutions and 4 other orphanages.	A lack of clear organisation of which children went where in institutions, with some children in orphanages having parents who were still their official guardian, while some children who did not have any parents anymore were placed in childcare and protection centres instead of in orphanages and their guardianship was confused.
Conditions in Institutions	2016: The material conditions in most institutions appeared adequate, if basic, in terms of shelter, clothing, food, heat, and other basic care. Some institutions had high-quality, modern therapeutic equipment and services. This was because of substantial support from international donors. Children and young adults were typically organised in groups of between 10-17 children, with 2 caregivers. With such a large number of children to care for, even the most dedicated and caring staff were challenged to provide individualised attention and care, in particular to very young children or children with certain support needs relevant to their disabilities. 2010: At times children got moved around from 1 institution to the next. In the special education institutions for children with disabilities, there was a lack of staff, both caregivers and specialists. Some institutions were overcrowded.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in care institutions.	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 67 children were placed in family-based care.	Foster care was not widespread and almost always long-term (several years or until adulthood). For a child to be put into foster care, the biological parents had to relinquish their parental right, forming a big obstacle.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2012: Around 500 children a year.	Guardianship was more common than foster care. Although it was not effectively regulated, perceptions about the strength of guardianship were a barrier to the expansion of foster care.
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 121	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing it in 2007.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2013: The 4 'other orphanages' recruited children from vulnerable families.	
Children Reunited with Family	2016: A pilot programme to support the biological families of institutionalised children in order to allow for reunification had started, around 200 children passed through this programme in 4 years.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2016: The govt. committed to changing 22 residential institutions into non-residential centres to deliver community-based services, however the plans for this did not refer to children with disabilities.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education is free in public schools.
Healthcare	Free for children up to 8 years old.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2016: Abandonment because of disability was still largely accepted. The prevailing belief was still that children with intellectual disabilities should live and be educated in institutions. Individuals with disabilities were often denied legal capacity to make decisions for themselves, so children growing up there often remain in institutions into adulthood. In some cases, this may amount to arbitrary deprivation of liberty. 2013: Not everyone believed it would be possible to put children with disabilities in foster families. Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities may be hidden away from the world.

Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	The govt. committed to making all primary and secondary schools inclusive by 2022. 2016: 20 special schools, most enrolling both children with and without disabilities, according to UNICEF only 18% of the children enrolled was registered as having a disability.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: More children with disabilities studied in community schools, but many of them did not receive quality education there because of a lack of reasonable accommodation to facilitate their learning.
Provision of Community Support	2016: Well-trained professionals, state of the art equipment and excellent therapy rooms were available for the therapy and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, but only within institutions and only accessible to children living in them. Recently some rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities and day care programmes were opened in the communities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Azerbaijan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 9,413,420	Under 18: 2,547,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 190,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes on the border with Armenia.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 564,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees.	10,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	First 6 months of 2008: 4 cases of child trafficking recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	More than 60% of the adult population lived below the poverty line.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Although alternative care was set up, this system was not able to cover all districts and towns of the country.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Social 47.4%, poverty 15.2%, abandonment 14.1%, being orphaned 7.3%, illness of the child 7%, disability 6.2%, and refugee status 2.8%.	
Children in Institutions	2010: Around 10,000, 4,290 children had a disability.	
Number of Institutions	2009: 55	
State-run/Privately Run	All state-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	Institutions had an average capacity of 200-350.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 1,304	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2011: 1,890 children were under guardianship. 2007: 6,700 children lived with guardians.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 934	Any conditional adoption, or adoption for any period of time, or proxy adoption was prohibited. Children over 10 had to give consent.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing it in 2004.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	May 2004: Imposed a moratorium on intercountry adoption, because of suspicion of irregularities, and possible trafficking.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Few voluntourism opportunities.	

Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The govt. developed a masterplan for transformation of residential institutions, the institutions were divided into 3 categories: to be closed down, to be down scaled (to small group homes) and to be transformed into other types of services. In 2009 a pilot programme started with 7 institutions, this included day care centres for children with disabilities and family and child support centres.	2010: A major obstacle in the way of DI was the fact that children were seen as the property of parents, who had the obligation to raise them and keep them alive, while the state saw them as objects to protect, no one saw them has human beings with rights.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free treatment and free dispensary control for children.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Available as a temporary allowance.
Family Support	A complete lack of community services and support for parents means that in a crisis, children tend to get institutionalised.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 200.
Enrolled in School	2010: Children with disabilities were not able to attend regular schools and there was a lack of educational and developmental programmes for this group.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009: 1,282 children in special care boarding schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2005-2009: 3 inclusive education projects launched by the govt., supported by NGOs.
Provision of Community Support	2009: 7 rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities, all funded by NGOs. There were also few services for day care service and support for families of children with disabilities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments
Guardianship, here, appears to be de facto foster care.

Bahrain

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,332,170	Under 18: 327,440
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2016: Significant problems with child rights in the sense of freedom of speech, right to identity, and non-discrimination. 70 children were arrested in 2010 and most of them were still held in 2011 for attending a demonstration, their parents were not allowed access to them.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2013: 218 cases were handled by the Child Protection Centre.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2013: Abuse, with the background of families with mental problems, socio-economic problems, substance abuse issues, or physical or sexual abuse and abandonment, particularly of children born out of wedlock.
Children in Institutions	2012-2016: 26
Number of Institutions	2018: 2
State-run/Privately Run	2018: 2 state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	2017: Deterrent measures were taken against 2 staff members. 1 of the nurses was dismissed after she lightly shoved away a child. A technician was also dismissed for punishing a child with a light blow.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	2013: Start of a pilot programme for 3-4 children.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free for orphans, book bag essentials given out at Ramadan.
Healthcare	Free or low-cost services for widows and orphans and people with disabilities.
Poverty Relief	For widows and orphans.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	2017: Shelters for women who were the victims of domestic violence where they could stay with their children.

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2017: 10,913 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Bangladesh

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 150,494,000	Under 18: 55,938,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 4.8 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and various militia, some linked to Al-Qaeda.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 426,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 232,000 refugees.	12,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked domestically and across the borders for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced labour (incl. begging). Children were trafficked into the country from Myanmar.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 15.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	60% of the country is prone to flooding disasters. Particularly between 2000-2009 a large portion of the country was affected by these, while droughts are also a big problem.	
Other Issues	Culturally young people were not considered to be 'children' until they were 18, once they reached 'understanding' they were expected to take up adult roles, leading to child marriages and child labour.	

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Children were abandoned due to poverty, and babies were abandoned when born to unwed mothers or as a result of sexual assault, with the mother's relatives unwilling to accept the baby. Also, extreme poverty and being orphaned.	
Children in Institutions	2007: More than 49,000.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2015: 91 state-run. 2009: 500 privately run.	2014: The govt. spent more than twice as much on children in non-govt. orphanages than on those in govt. orphanages.
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2013: The govt. announced a plan to develop foster care for autistic children.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 3% of children aged 0-14 lived outside parental care. Of these, children who lived within a household, without parental care, 94.4% lived with relatives.	
Children in Kafalah	Kafalah was allowed.	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2011: 2,007, after placement in an institution.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Very limited.
Child Allowance	2011: 1,192 parents received cash support from the state.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	2011: 33 out of 42 state-run day care centres were specifically for lower-income groups, they also provided healthcare and food.

Disability

Attitude	There was some confusion about which ministries were responsible for children of school going age with disabilities. 2015: The rights of children with disabilities to quality healthcare was not yet realised and a large percentage of preventable disabilities is linked to undernutrition, disease, problems around delivery, and accidents.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 500 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2014: 10,947 children in special schools for children with sensory disabilities. 2012: 15 poor autistic children got free special education.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2011: 110,596 children with disabilities attended regular schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes, and mobility and orthopaedic aids were distributed.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Bhutan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 738,000	Under 18: 260,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 21,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	2017: Hosted 10,000 Nepalese refugees.	18,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Primarily a trafficking country of origin, children were trafficked to Nepal, India and Pakistan.	
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: The govt. did not recognise formal care systems.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Access to education for children living in remote areas was a reason for enrolment in boarding schools.
Children in Institutions	Lack of statistics on institutionalisation may be due to the fact that most children who live outside of their family were brought up in monasteries and it was hard to distinguish those there in training to become monks/nuns from those in need of alternative care.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2017: Measures were taken to reduce the mortality rate among children in monasteries.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2015: 6% of children aged 0-14 lived outside parental care. 2016: Of children aged 0-14 living in a household without parental care 93.7% lived with a relative.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	The law made provisions for adoptions to be arranged by civil society organisations or private agencies, but to date no such bodies had been involved in adoptions.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free education, clothing, and equipment provided at boarding schools. Children living within a 5-mile radius can go home and long summer and winter holidays are introduced for time spent with family.
Healthcare	Public healthcare service is free for all citizens.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	Because Bhutanese society was generally tolerant, stigmatisation of particular groups was rare.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2017: 3 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Brunei Darussalam

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 417,780	Under 18: 126,2900
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Indonesia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements	
Children in Alternative Care	Involvement of Social Affairs Services was seen as a last resort.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2018: Abuse or neglect, parents unable to care for children, parents separated or custody pending in divorce, being orphaned, parent(s) disappeared, dysfunctional family.
Children in Institutions	2016: No orphanages, only temporary welfare homes where children stayed until they were placed in a family (their own or a foster family).
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2016: Welfare homes were state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	Children were placed in foster care if they could not stay with their own family.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2000: The extended family system provided a caring environment. The 2,000 registered orphans (children without fathers below the age of 18 years) were all being taken care of by their immediate families.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2016: A non-Muslim could not adopt a Muslim child. 2018: A temporary adoption scheme existed to provide family-based care for children without family care.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	

Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Primary and secondary education are free.
Healthcare	Free. At times incl. covering the expense of having complicated surgery done overseas.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2013-2014: An increase of children with special needs or differently-abled in religious schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2015: Segregated schools were prohibited.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Inclusive education was provided.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Additional Comments

Despite being ruled by Islamic law, adoption appears to be possible. Most of the information comes from reports from 2000

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Cambodia

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 15,135,170	Under 18: 5,583,130
Number of Orphans	2016: 630,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	2011: Children constituted 28% of civilian casualties.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	13,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked to Thailand for begging or sale of small items and to Viet Nam for sexual exploitation. Girls were also trafficked from rural areas to urban centres for sexual exploitation.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 15.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 14.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2010: 5,004 children without parental care were receiving care in the community.	Govt. policy recognised that family- and community-based care were the best options for children, but practice did not reflect this.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Education, poverty, single parenthood, remarriage and alcoholism. Every year about 200-300 children rescued from sexual exploitation were placed in institutions.	
Children in Institutions	2018: Estimated 48,775.	
Number of Institutions	2016: 401 (in just 5 of the 25 provinces).	More than half of institutions were unregistered.
State-run/Privately Run	2016: Most were privately run.	Even when children were in privately run institutions, the govt. was their official guardian, NGOs could act as caregivers only.
Conditions in Institutions	Lack of funding led to exploitation of children through child labour. 2008: Only an estimated 64% of registered residential centres complied with the min. standards.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: Some NGOs only allowed children to be placed in foster care in pairs, because wealthy families were known to often make servants of foster children.	
Children in Group Homes	2016: 1,292 children were said to live in 57 small group homes, however 448 of these children were living in just 2 ‘group homes’.	
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	There was a long tradition of caring for vulnerable children through extended family and community care, this threatened to be eroded by the increasing institutionalisation of children. 2015: 8% of children aged 0-14 lived outside parental care. Of these, children living in a household without parental care, 98.4% lived with relatives. The law obliged relatives to provide support for orphaned children, in order of: cohabiting relatives, lineal relatives by consanguinity, adult siblings, and in special circumstances an obligation on relatives up to the third degree.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2007.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	There were scandals over child procurement. In 2001 a moratorium on intercountry adoption was introduced.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Almost all residential childcare institutions were funded by overseas donors, and volunteers were attracted and asked for further funding. *Tuk-tuk* drivers were said to be paid a commission to bring tourist to 'orphanages'. Children were taught to dance and made to give performances – sometimes every day or late at night – to raise funds. Some residential facilities actively recruited children, convincing parents that the children would be better off. In a period where tourism grew by 75%, the number of orphanages also grew by 75%.
Children Reunited with Family	2018: 500 children returned home from orphanages in the past 2 years, the process was slow because the children were undocumented.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Increased school construction has made education up to lower secondary level more accessible, particularly in rural areas.
Healthcare	Support with expenses for the poorest.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Village chiefs often persuaded families to put their children into institutions in absence of alternative support mechanisms.

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 5,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

China (People's Republic of)

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 1,385,566,540	Under 18: 301,232,790
Number of Orphans	2009: 712,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and the East Turkestan Islamist Movement.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 301,000 refugees.	213,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	There was child trafficking into the country from Viet Nam (boys for illegal adoption), Lao, Cambodia, Mongolia and North Korea. And outward to South Korea. There was even more internal child trafficking reported than international child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 9.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2016: The one-child policy was changed into a two-children policy. 2013: Due to the restrictive *hukou* policy, many migrant parents faced the difficult choice of leaving their children behind, resulting in 55 million children growing up without one or both parents in rural mainland China.	

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2013: The Committee was concerned that new policies advocated for the establishment of children's homes and offered greater funding for such institutions than for kinship and community-based care, which could unintentionally create incentives for govt. agencies to institutionalize children rather than seek community-based alternative care options.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2013: Abandonment and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 502,000 children lived in Welfare Homes.	
Number of Institutions	2015: 478	
State-run/Privately Run	2015: 478 state-run and an unknown number of privately run.	In practice, it was very hard to know how many NGOs are running residential institutions, because many, if not most, non-state-run institutions were called 'foster care homes' and children who were moved from a state-run home to a privately run home, on paper were shown to be 'in foster care' even though this 'foster care' could be a large-scale institution.
Conditions in Institutions	The quality of care given in state-run homes was entirely dependent on the people in charge. Those with an interest in the children's well-being ran well-equipped, well-staffed institutions, while those who had no interest did not	

	invest in the care of the children and this led to poor facilities, staff to child ratios of 1:20 (even for infants and children with severe disabilities) and high mortality rates.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2016: The country had developed a foster care model.	The development of foster care was start-stop-start wise. Foster care was set up in an area, but then an accident happened leading to severe injury or death of a child and all children were recalled to the Welfare Home again, ending the foster care programme.
Children in Group Homes	2014: Community-based, family-style group homes set up in rural China with financial support from local govt. and NGOs. SOS Children's Villages was active.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Traditionally the family was the main safety net, and to a large extend that was still true in 2015, however, with the effects of the one-child policy combined with a trend towards migrant workers this safety net was unravelling.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2016: 2,771 intercountry adoptions, down from 14,000 in 2005. 2001: 37,200 domestic adoptions.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Fees between $3,000 and $5,000 were charged for intercountry adoptions, children's homes that had become dependent on the international fees then went out to 'harvest' children when numbers declined. 2013: While the Committee noted that the state made efforts in mainland China to combat unlawful adoptions, it was deeply concerned that thousands of children were estimated to be abducted, trafficked, and sold every year, incl. for illegal adoption purposes. It was particularly concerned about reports that some family planning officials coerce parents to give up their children born in excess of the parents' birth quotas, and sell them or transfer them into the care of local orphanages for domestic or international adoption or forced labour. Boys were trafficked from Viet Nam for adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities in privately run institutions.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	
Healthcare	There are illness relief funds to help with medical costs of the extremely poor. Free hearing aids for children. Funding operations and rehabilitation for orphans with disabilities. Costs of cleft lip and palate surgery are covered for impoverished families.
Poverty Relief	Yes, some.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, some.
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	The Committee was concerned about the continued exception made to the one-child policy whereby families with a child with disabilities were allowed to have a second child, a policy which promotes stigmatisation of children with disabilities. There was a widespread stigma attached to children with disabilities and they experience multiple forms of discrimination, incl. limited access to education, healthcare, and social services. There was a severe urban-rural disparity in the number of children with disabilities, and a high number of children with disabilities were living in institutions, particularly in rural areas. There was a policy of actively developing segregated special schools, while devoting few resources to the education of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. The Committee was further concerned about reports that children with disabilities were denied admission by mainstream schools, pressured to leave the schools, or sometimes expelled due to their disabilities. Reports indicated that they were commonly excluded and discriminated against, incl. by teachers, and bullied by their peers. Children with disabilities were less likely to be adopted domestically.
Children with Disabilities	2009: 2.46 million school-age children between the ages of 6 and 14 with disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2009: 257 special education institutions at the senior high-school level, 95 of which were ordinary high schools with 5,464 students attending school, 162 middle-level vocational education institutions, with 9,932 people attending school, and 14 tertiary special education colleges, which in 2008 enrolled 1,032 students with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009: 1,672 special education schools, with 428,100 children with various disabilities attending school.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Georgia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,340,900	Under 18: 921,870
Number of Orphans	2016: 68,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Occasional tensions at the border with Russia. 2008: Violence in Ossetia and Abkhazia (backed by Russian invasion) increased, displacing 200,000 Georgians and disrupting the economy, in August a ceasefire was signed.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 239,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 2,000 refugees, 32% of whom were children.	6,000 people left as refugees.
Child Trafficking	2013: Women and girls were subjected to sex trafficking within the country as well as to Turkey, UAE, and to a lesser extent to Greece, Egypt, Russia, Germany, and Austria.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	After the break-up of the Soviet Union there was a lot of chaos, economic collapse, and tension. Things started to become more stable and the economic upturn started around 2004. 2016: Children living and working in the streets was a problem.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: 1,730 children were beneficiaries of different state care services.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	The Orthodox Church sometimes persuaded parents to hand over their children to the church. Poverty 34%, disability of the child 21%, illness of the child 7.3%, social reasons 15.3%, educational reasons 7.5%, 'other' reasons 7.5%, because of refugee status 4.2%, and abandonment 3.2%.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 88 children with severe and profound disabilities. Children in orphanages run by the Georgian Orthodox Church were off the public record.	More than 80% of children not living in a boarding school had a disability.
Number of Institutions	2016: 6	2013: While closing the majority of state-run institutions for non-disabled children, the govt. continued to fund the orphanages run by the Georgian Orthodox Church, these institutions were completely unregulated and the number of children in them were off the public record.
State-run/Privately Run	2016: 3 state-run (down from 49) and 3 run by the Georgian Orthodox Church.	
Conditions in Institutions	Because orphanages run by the Orthodox Church were completely unregulated and the number of children in them were off the public record, no one could be sure that children were not being trafficked from them. Children with disabilities in institutions suffered physical and emotional neglect and abuse and many children were denied life-saving medical treatment because they had disabilities (often by doctors who said it was not worth it), death rate was high. Pain management was also denied. 2016: 3 cases of violence by staff of institutions were reported. Staff to child ratio of 1:17 in 2010. 2010: Study showed that more than 25% of children with disabilities in institutional care died over a 2-year period.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Possibly prohibited in care institutions.	
Children in Foster Care	2016: 1,316 children were placed in foster care, 194 of them had disabilities.	Placement of children of 10 years old or over this age in foster care required their consent.
Children in Group Homes	2016: 10 small group homes run by the Georgian Orthodox Church that were monitored. 340 children lived in small group homes.	From 2013 the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan in Georgia paid all the communal taxes (incl. utilities) for the small family-type homes throughout the country. Staff selected to work in these new small family-type homes were provided with completely new training on individual care, incl. identification of child's strengths and weaknesses and detection of different needs.
Children under Guardianship	2011: 2,008	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2016: 69 domestic adoptions and 3 intercountry adoptions.	2014: If the adoptee was 10 or above, reversal of the decision on adoption was allowed only with consent of the adoptee.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1999.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family	2012: About 33% of all children in institutions had been reunited with their families, though this mostly excluded children with disabilities.	In order to promote DI of children, financial aid was provided for the reintegrating children's families.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2016: After DI, only 2 big institutions for children with severe and profound disabilities continued to exist, housing 88 children. Work continued to develop family-type services based on the individual needs of these children, with a pilot programme set to launch.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free textbooks for all students. Nearly 900 public school students in rural areas and high mountain zones were provided free transportation.
Healthcare	Universal Healthcare Programme. Children with disabilities are provided with: hearing devices, cochlear implant, wheelchair, prosthetic-orthopaedic material.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	

Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes, also in 2015 a 5-year plan was launched to work towards the complete integration of ethnic minorities, particularly Roma people. There are shelters for pregnant women and mothers in a difficult situation and their children up to 10 years old. If a child is at risk of being abandoned or placed in an institution, they receive 24-hour care for a max. of 1 year.

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 100 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	After 2010 only 8 special schools were left. 2013: Special schools received govt. funding for students' needs, incl. for boarding and clothes, public schools did not.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2016: 6,000 SEN students were enrolled in regular schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

India

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 1,241,492,000	Under 18: 447,309,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 31 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict between the army and various rebel groups, sometimes clashes along the border with Pakistan.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 612,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 201,000 refugees.	10,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Was a source, destination, and transit country for trafficking for sexual exploitation, marriage, prostitution, adoption, entertainment, domestic servitude, sports, pornography, sex tourism, begging, organ trade, and work in factories, shops, and restaurants. Since 2009 there has been an increase in trafficking of girls domestically.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 14.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements	
Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Being orphaned, abandonment, sexual abuse, victim of child pornography, trafficked children, victims of child marriage, HIV/AIDS, disability, and children affected by natural or man-made disasters or conflict. 2007: 90% of 11 million orphans or abandoned children were girls.
Children in Institutions	2016: 370,227. 19,834 children with disabilities lived in institutions.
Number of Institutions	2016: 9,623 (33% were unregistered).
State-run/Privately Run	2016: 845 state-run, and 8,744 NGO-run (and 34 homes in Utar Pradesh, which were not mapped).
Conditions in Institutions	2016: Despite it being prohibited by law, the form of discipline used in almost all institutions was corporal punishment. Withholding food, rest, and use of toilet were also used for disciplining in many places. There was a shortage of staff across all childcare institutions. Privacy and safety were a cause for concern, toilets/bathrooms were not always available exclusively for the children, and there were not always separate facilities for boys and girls. 15.1% of institutions were overcrowded. In some states, regulation required only 1 caregiver per 50 children.
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited, but still widely used.
Children in Foster Care	2008: While foster care was mentioned in legislation, there was a lack of an effective system.
Children in Group Homes	

Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 3% of children aged 0-14 lived outside parental care. Of these, 96% of children living in a household without parental support, lived with relatives.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2016-2018: 2,671	There was a waiting list of 15,000 parents wanting to adopt, because the process was notoriously slow, requiring a clearance from a court that could take up to 4 years to be delivered.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2018: As a result of the delays in the adoption process, a thriving and lucrative hidden market in babies developed. Officials admitted they did not know the size of this market.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	From 2015 legislation was preparing the ground for DI and a move towards family-based care.	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free and compulsory. Scholarships for vulnerable children.
Healthcare	Treatment at Civil Hospitals is free. ART is provided for free.
Poverty Relief	Providing 1 meal a day for schoolchildren in schools and for preschool children at local distribution points.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	The belief existed that disability was closely linked to the concept of karma and was often seen as a punishment for misdeeds in the past or the wrongdoings of parents. This led to people with disabilities being seen as inauspicious, and therefore they could not take part in community events like weddings. These beliefs were strongest in relation to mental or visual impairments and were least likely to be held in relation to physical impairments caused by injuries or accidents. There were extremely negative attitudes towards the integration into mainstream schooling of children with mental illness or impairments.
Children with Disabilities	2013: The data on children with disabilities living in institutions, living with their families, placed in foster care, attending special schools, and not attending schools was not available.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 140,000. 2009: HIV+ children were often refused admission to residential care. 2016: 2,533 HIV+ children lived in institutions. The stigma of HIV was very strong.
Enrolled in School	2012-2013: 2.2 million children with disabilities enrolled in primary schools, a significant increase compared to 3 years before.

Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Indonesia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 249,865,630	Under 18: 85,505,720
Number of Orphans	2016: 4.7 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and various separatist and Islamist groups.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 6,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 6,000 refugees, 21% of whom were children.	14,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked to Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Saudi-Arabia, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Germany, and Austria.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 7.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	One of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, regularly experiencing earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and drought.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: Use of residential care as a primary and formal form of intervention in cases of personal, social or economic crisis was very entrenched.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty and hope for a better education were the primary drivers. Children were sent to an Islamic-run institution to get good morals and discipline. Disability, violence, discrimination, and abandonment of children born out of wedlock, and babies resulting from affairs or rape.	
Children in Institutions	2007: Over 500,000. Over 3.3 million children in Indonesia resided long-term in Islamic boarding schools across the archipelago.	
Number of Institutions	2006: Estimated 7,000. More than 150 institutions for children with disabilities.	
State-run/Privately Run	2016: 99% of institutions were privately run by faith-based organisations.	Quite a few privately run institutions received govt. funding.
Conditions in Institutions	2016: Shelter, food, clothing, and education were usually provided. There was minimal focus on children's care, development, and protection in the majority of institutions. Only 2 focused specifically on creating a substitute family, and an SOS village was the only institution that had a child protection policy in place. Almost all the institutions had a low ratio of staff per child, with a majority having less than 1 staff for 10 children, and few of the staff were actually assigned to caring for children. Children were expected to carry out a range of chores and work to contribute to the running of the institution. Most institutes ran quite strict regimes of rules and regulations. Physical and humiliating punishments were used. Due to limited funding in many institutions there were challenges in ensuring sufficient access to clean water and sanitation, and to quality food.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	

Children in Foster Care	2016: Recent efforts were made by the govt. collaborating with NGOs to develop a pilot foster care programme.
Children in Group Homes	2016: A family/cottage type system existed where 8-10 older children lived in gender-segregated cottages together under the supervision of a caregiver. The cottage complex might include a medical clinic, preschool, or primary school classrooms, and a space for vocational training.
Children under Guardianship	Formal guardianship remained a relatively new form of formal care that required increased piloting and monitoring.
Children in Informal Care	2015: 6% of children aged 0-14 was outside parental care. Of these, 95.7% of children living in a household without parental support lived with relatives. Informal kinship care was common practice in some ethnic groups, particularly in Java, Lombok, and some parts in Sulawesi and was usually the first option for children who could not live with their parents.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Did not permit intercountry adoption since 2004, but did permit adoption by foreign nationals living in the country. Only children under 5 years old could be legally adopted. Adoptive parents went to an institution to select a child and could return the child if they were not satisfied, and trade it in for another if they wished. Rights of biological parents were not severed at adoption. An adoptive child had to be of the same religion as the adoptive parents. When the religion of the child's birth parents was not known, the child was deemed to be Muslim.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2016: Despite the regulations, there were concerns about illegal adoption practices and corruption in domestic adoption, incl. concerns about some non-govt. agencies that had a licence to support adoption. In recognition that customary practice might contribute to illegal and harmful adoption practices, laws and regulations were strengthened to ensure that all adoptions were formalised through the court.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism was a big problem. 2007: Active recruitment processes by a number of social welfare institutions contributed to unnecessary family separation. There was a proliferation in the establishment of childcare institutions in the 1990s and from 2000-2006.
Children Reunited with Family	After the tsunami in 2004, 80% of children were reunited with their families within 6 months.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The official policy in the past decade was a move towards family-based care, but reality did not show much progress yet.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2012: Only 44% of children from poor households were reaching 7th grade compared to 90% for rich households. The total costs of education continued to rise, faster for poor households in real terms.
Healthcare	2014: A National Healthcare Insurance System was launched, aiming to make basic care available to all by 2019.
Poverty Relief	Conditional cash transfer.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	The majority of children with disabilities in Indonesia remained with their families, and some might be hidden or isolated due to stigma.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 25,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 77,447,170	Under 18: 21,919,520
Number of Orphans	2016: 1.2 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and rebel groups.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 979,000 refugees.	85,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Children were sold into the sex trade in Pakistan, Turkey, the UAE, Bahrain, or Europe, and Iran was also a destination country for child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	Wealth was very unevenly distributed and 80% of the people (particularly in rural areas) lived below the poverty line.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015: Street children appeared to be a significant problem.	

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2015: 13,738 children were protected within their family or quasi-family by the state.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Though officially there was no discrimination against children born out of wedlock, they did end up in state care. Unsupervised refugee children.	
Children in Institutions	2017: Around 20,000 children living in welfare centres. 2013: 5,322 children with disabilities lived in institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2017: 575	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: 500 state-run and 75 NGO-run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: About 11,000.	
Children in Group Homes	It seems like quasi-families were probably small group home set-ups.	
Children under Guardianship	A 6-month guardianship used as a kind of trial period before adoption.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		Iran's CRC report mentioned 'adoption', despite being an Islamic state, however the way this was used almost interchangeably with foster care, might mean they actually referred to Kafalah. Couples who were Iranian nationals living in Iran or abroad, or foreign nationals residing in Iran could apply for adoption of a child.
Children Adopted	2017: Around 14,000 in the previous 2 years.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free at all levels.
Healthcare	Children born in or after 2007 are insured against incidents and congenital disability.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2013: About 283,943.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 2,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes, incl. adaptation of the home and home care.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Iraq

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 33,765,230	Under 18: 15,752,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 84,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Ongoing armed conflict, political instability and presence of armed groups, the reinforcement of sectarian and ethnic divisions and the rise of religious extremism, which led to severe violations of children's rights and constituted a serious obstacle to the implementation of the rights enshrined in the Convention, particularly worsened by terrorist acts committed by criminal groups belonging to ISIL. 2011: Children constituted 50% of civilian casualties.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 3.29 million	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 278,000 refugees, 40% of whom were children.	34% of the 264,000 people fleeing the country as refugees were children.
Child Trafficking	2015: ISIL sold children (mostly as sex slaves) in the market, with price tags on them.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 27.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements	
Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Single mothers faced social rejection, leading to abandonment of children. Deprivation, family break-up, and disability.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	2015: 23
State-run/Privately Run	2015: All 23 either state-run or at least supervised by the state.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	A child could only be fostered by an Iraqi couple. The mention of inheritance law with regard to fostering, raised the suspicion that the words fostering and Kafalah were used interchangeably.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2015: The Committee was concerned about reports of children being trafficked from orphanages by employees for the purpose of forced prostitution.
Children Reunited with Family	2007-2011: 201, from institutions.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free and compulsory. School meals programme launched as a pilot.
Healthcare	Wheelchairs provided to children with disabilities.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2015: Discrimination and stigmatisation of people with disabilities was still strong.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2009-2010: 9,703 students.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009-2010: 899 special education classes.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2009-2010: 1,073 special units in primary schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

Most of the information found refers to how things were regulated by law, rather than by how they were put in practice. No statistical information found on various forms of alternative care.

Israel

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 7,733,140	Under 18: 2,509,100
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	Intermittently at war with Hamas, Palestinian territories.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 39,000 refugees.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2011: 6,845 injunctions for a child to be taken out of their home. 2012: 175 children with disabilities were not living with their family, no data was available on how many of them were in institutions.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Babies were abandoned because of disabilities, limited lifespan, or substance abuse of the mother. Abuse and neglect.	
Children in Institutions	2013: Around 3,000 children staying in boarding schools did not have a family (or a family able to safely care for them) to go home to during the holidays.	In these boarding schools there were 2 main age groups: 27% were between the ages of 6-12, 61% were between the ages of 13-18. The professionals created a program in which volunteer families from the community host the children during their holidays. The family became an important role model for the child and provided a positive example for family life.
Number of Institutions	2013: 85 residential settings.	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: No data available.	Toddlers and preschool pupils at risk were transferred to emergency foster families that were designated and prepared for that purpose for immediate protection in emergency situations. Older children were put in emergency boarding schools.

Children in Group Homes	A group home was a framework with different age groups, it could accommodate up to 12 children in a house and was run by a biological family (parents and children) with the assistance of therapeutic personnel and external maintenance.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2013: No data available.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Primary and secondary education are free in public schools.
Healthcare	Basic health service free for everyone, incl. emergency medical services.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	A study of prospective special educators found that they held unhelpful preconceptions about people with disabilities and that some discriminated between certain types of disability.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: 35,295 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: 36,848 students.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Japan

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 127,143,580	Under 18: 20,195,120
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 2,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked in from South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines. 2006-2015: The International Organisation of Migration has supported the return home of 209 foreign victims of trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.4% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2013: Over 85% of 39,047 children whose families could not care for them were put in institutions.	2011: Govt. investigations found 46 credible claims of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse and neglect in alternative care. Roughly 2/3 were in childcare institutions, and 13% were foster care and foster family group homes. The remaining 26% of cases were in an infant home, in group homes for independent living, in child guidance centres (incl. temporary shelters), and in institutions for chidren with disabilities. Centres, responsible for making decisions on alternative care placements were severely under-resourced.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Children born out of wedlock were discriminated against, even in law. Parental abuse or neglect, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2013: Just under 34,000. About 3,000 babies lived in infant institutions.	Institutions got funds based on the number of children placed, so they had a vested interest in keeping the beds full.
Number of Institutions	2013: 280 institutions of 20 children or more, 147 institutions of 13 to 19 children.	
State-run/Privately Run	2013: All institutions appeared to be state-run.	Orphanages were often named ‘foster homes’.
Conditions in Institutions	Problems included physical and sexual abuse by both caregivers and children, poor physical conditions, overly large institutions in which physical space was limited and chances for bonding and learning life skills were limited, and	

	insufficient mechanisms for children to report problems. The confining nature and duration of 'temporary child custody', in which children who were removed from their families were first placed, was also problematic. Children were confined to locked premises, and often restricted from going to school or having contact with the outside world. The law allowed children to be held in such a facility for up to 2 months, but this could be extended indefinitely. Many child-care institutes in Japan were modern, clean, and safe, but a few that Human Rights Watch visited were in poor condition. In 1, the boys' wing stank of urine, electrical wiring was exposed, and much of the furniture was broken. Of the institutions for 20 or more children, several housed over 150. 2015: New budget allowed for a caregiver to child ratio of 1:4.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2013: 4,578 children in 3,292 households.	Traditional views of family led to prominence of residential over foster care, with only 10% of children in state care living in foster care in 2010. It was usual to get parental consent for placement of a child in alternative care, and it was harder to get their consent for foster care placement, which was 1 of the reasons behind low level of foster care placements. Foster carers got a monthly allowance, and there were various types of foster parents: registered foster parents, specialised registered foster parents (for children who have been traumatised, have been in conflict with the law, or who have disabilities), and adoptive foster parents (who eventually wish to adopt, they do not receive the allowance and kinship-based foster parents).
Children in Group Homes	2013: 226 homes with 12 or fewer children. 829 children lived in foster family group home systems with 5-6 children each.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 303 children were formally adopted through child guidance agencies and a further 127 children were adopted through registered private agencies.	To adopt Japanese children, foreign adopters had to be residents for the entire length of the adoption procedure, which took around 18 months. Adoption where all ties with the birth family were severed was considered 'special adoption' and only rarely possible, only with children under age 6.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	April 2017: A new law came into effect, guaranteeing children that they could live in a family setting, either through adoption or foster care, institutionalisation would only be acceptable in cases where these alternatives were 'not appropriate' and would have to take the form of a family-like setting.

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free and compulsory up to age 15, incl. free textbooks.
Healthcare	Govt. healthcare subsidy programme for children. Medical treatment for premature babies is free. Medical allowances given to children with certain medical conditions.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	1991: 81,000
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Since 2010 integration of facilities that were previously available only for children with specific disabilities, were integrated, leading to more children having facilities available in their communities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	A detailed effort towards inclusive education was described in reports, but no statistics given on it.
Provision of Community Support	Yes, incl. home helpers.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Jordan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 7,273,800	Under 18: 2,899,760
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 664,000 refugees, 50% of whom were children.	2,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 12.7% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Children of unwed mothers were abandoned, to avoid the stigma. Poverty, problems with housing and divorce or imprisonment of parents. Disability led to institutionalisation, the belief existed that institutions were safer for children with disabilities.	
Children in Institutions	2018: 2,054 (it was not clear whether this included those with disabilities). 1,847 children with disabilities lived in institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2018: 51. 35 institutions for children, youths, and adults with disabilities (not clear if these 35 were incl. in the 51).	
State-run/Privately Run	2018: Of the institutions for people with disabilities 5 were state-run and 30 were privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Possibly prohibited in institutions, and prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2009: 77	2018: Issues standing in the way of developing foster care were foster families worrying about coping with children aged 12-18, concerns about confrontations with biological families, and concerns about bearing any consequences that would involve them in legal, social, customary, or ethnic accountability.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted		
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2018: A 10-year DI plan had to be in place by September, according to new legislation regarding the rights of people with disabilities. The govt. was working to put this in place, with help of NGOs.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	2011: 50% of the total labour force was covered by social security. Hearing aids, optical devices, wheelchairs and material printed in Braille and large font are supplied, as well as laptops with talking software for every blind university student.
Poverty Relief	Credit provided to set up businesses.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Violence against people with disabilities appeared to be a problem, considering the number of provisions against it in the law.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Modern vehicles were bought, and the transport fleet was replaced with 50 new buses that were specially adapted to students' needs. The buses were used by more than 1,500 students with auditory or visual impairments or mental disabilities. The govt. paid 60% of the school fees of 516 students with disabilities, who were living with their families. 2009: 289 students with disabilities received a discount on university fees.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Kazakhstan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 16,440,590	Under 18: 4,945,570
Number of Orphans	2016: 420,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and the Kazakh Mujahideen (Islamist group).	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees, 31% of whom were children.	2,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	2010: Despite efforts taken to counter it, trafficking of children for sexual exploitation and labour purposes, both domestically and internationally, was still a problem. 17 cases of trafficking of minors were tried by the court.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2018: About 26,000 children without parental care.	The efforts of special services and foster parent schools led to a decrease in the number of orphanage returnees after adoption, patronage, custody, or foster care was cancelled. Only 125 children were returned in 2017, compared to 246 in 2015.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Migrant work, poverty, abandonment, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2018: About 6,000.	More than half of children not in boarding schools had a disability.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2007: Many children lacking parental care, in particular abandoned children, were placed in the same closed facilities as children in conflict with the law. Children were punished for misbehaviour by food deprivation, physical punishment, humiliations (e.g., cleaning shoes of orphanage staff), and forced labour (e.g., cleaning restrooms). As a result, 20-30 children ran away from an orphanage every month.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 2,267	
Children in Group Homes	2010: 7 family-type children's villages accommodating 349 children. 3 SOS Children's Villages with 190 children and 22 family-type children's homes with 330 children.	In family-type children's homes, children lived in groups of 8 to 10, bound by family-type relationships and ties of affection and friendship.
Children under Guardianship	2011: 22,067 children were in the care of guardians.	Since 2011, guardians were paid an allowance for the maintenance of children amounting to 10 times the monthly unit. This measure made it possible to reduce the number of children in children's homes, since many of them had relatives who were able, with financial support, to take the children into their family.
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014: 1,192	Under Kazakh law, priority in adoption matters was given to Kazakh nationals, who had the right to adopt a child as soon as the child was identified as lacking parental care. There was an upward trend in the number of children adopted by Kazakh nationals.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified. Started enforcing in 2010.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	A few voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2010: 1,328	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2018: 4,445 children were returned to their biological families over the previous 5 years, and 50 facilities were closed or reorganised.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Transport is provided for children who do not have schools locally, hot school meals are provided in primary schools.
Healthcare	Medical treatment for children is free. Prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances, wheelchairs, hearing and vision aids are provided.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	For children who have lost 1 or both parents and for children in low-income families. And childcare allowance for children under age 1.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	People with disabilities still faced problems that they were unable to resolve themselves. Urban infrastructure was still not adapted to people with physical disabilities, there were not enough medical facilities, and problems relating to work and employment remained some of the most acute, because employers declined to recruit people with disabilities in the belief that they would not be able to carry out the work assigned to them. This type of attitude stemmed from misgivings and stereotypical ideas whereby greater significance was ascribed to a person's disability than to his or her capabilities.
Children with Disabilities	2011: 54,495 children were registered as disabled.

Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 500 children under 15.
Enrolled in School	2010: 9,391 children were taught at home under individual programmes.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: 34 special kindergartens and 280 special groups in mainstream kindergartens, catering for 9,676 children of preschool age. 101 special needs schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010: 17,150 children were integrated, they received special educational support, 1,155 special classes in general education schools, providing education to 26,000 children (15.5%).
Provision of Community Support	Yes, incl. day care and home care.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Korea (Democratic People's Republic)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 24,895,480	Under 18: 6,582,830
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	Skirmishes at the border with South Korea.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	1,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked to China. The govt. held trafficking to be inconceivable, and claimed that reports about it were made by South Korea to tarnish the country's reputation.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 40.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Although the govt. claimed that street children were virtually non-existent, in reality many orphaned and abandoned children lived on their own, in the streets, trying to survive.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	
Children in Institutions	2017: 4,900, and 11,880 at boarding schools.
Number of Institutions	2017: 41
State-run/Privately Run	Everything was state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	2017: It was reported to the CRC that 6 children in the institutions were subjected to neglect and abuse. 6 persons in the institutions were subjected to criminal punishment for abusing children.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	"More and more people volunteered to assume the care of orphans in the neighbourhood or institutions. In particular, a girl in her twenties and a factory manager taking care of several orphans with motherly love were widely covered by the media, touching the public to the heart and encouraging them to support them and follow their examples."
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	

Children Adopted	2017: 736 children adopted domestically.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	”Media coverage of a teacher who carried a girl with disability on her back to school every day, students who provided moral and material support to their classmate with disability, doctors who devoted themselves to the rehabilitation of children with disabilities and others with laudable deeds contributed to establishing a climate of rendering positive assistance and support to person with disabilities.”
Children with Disabilities	2017: 34,171
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2017: 33,013, of whom 1,144 at boarding schools. 1,158 children with disabilities did not attend school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

Very difficult to find information that is not self-reported and all self-reporting consists of propaganda.

Korea (Republic of)

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 49,262,700	Under 18: 9,339,230
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	Skirmishes at the border with North Korea.	
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked in from China, the Philippines, and the Russian Federation and they were trafficked out to Japan.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	There was an average of 3,000 children and people with disabilities reported missing every year, of which some went missing for a prolonged period, posing a serious problem to society.	

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2007: 11,394 children were in need of care from the state.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2009: Poverty, famine, unemployment, abuse, unwed mothers, and street children.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 4,219 (49.1% of children in care).	
Number of Institutions	2007: 286	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in various settings, but only in Seoul.	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 16,200. 2011: 43.6% of children in care were in foster care.	Foster homes received a child-rearing subsidy.
Children in Group Homes	2007: 276 group homes.	Group homes were divided into short-term, long-term, and treatment-based care. Treatment-based care was for children experiencing maladjustment in facility care or emotional problems unsuitable for facility care.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Grandparents raising grandchildren became eligible for govt. support programs in 2007.	
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	2007: 52.3% of 1,991 adoptions was domestic.	2009: Mixed race and minority children were disproportionately sent for intercountry adoption. Intercountry adoption comprised both adoption into and out of the country.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Several voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free for children from single parent families.
Healthcare	Medical allowance for adopted children.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	For children in care, single parent families, and those adopted.
Disability Allowance	For children in care.
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2007: 144 special schools, 22,963 children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2007: 4,530 regular schools had special classes, catering for 35,340 children with special needs.
Provision of Community Support	Childcare helpers dispatched by the govt. to help care for the child in the home or provide communication assistance.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Kuwait

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 3,368,570	Under 18: 975,44
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted received 1,000 refugees, 66% of whom were children.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Indonesia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements	
Children in Alternative Care	2010: 974 children were in need of alternative care.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2010: Abandonment and family break-up.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	Some abandoned children were left to live in hospitals for very long periods.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	Foster parents had to be Kuwaiti Muslim families.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	No indication that Kafalah was practised.
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	

Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	2010: Persons with severe disabilities were looked after in social care homes, which were staffed by doctors and female nurses and located within proximity of the specialist medicine area so that these persons received the best and fastest possible service if they needed to be admitted to a hospital for treatment.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2013: The govt. was taking administrative and institutional measures to devise school curricula adapted for inclusive education. However, children with severe disabilities continued to attend special educational institutions.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Additional Comments

Descriptions of various services are available, but very few statistics were found.

Kyrgyzstan

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 5,547,550	Under 18: 1,997,190
Number of Orphans	2016: 140,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and Hizb ut-Tahrir (Islamist group).	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	3,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 6.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	67.7% social reasons (over 1/3 of these cases were single parent families), 10.9% illness of the child, 9.9% educational reasons, 4.4% disability, 3% abandonment, 2% poverty, and 1.6% being orphaned.	
Children in Institutions	2011: 17,017 children lived in public residential care (incl. boarding schools, but excl. privately run institutions).	More than 2/3 of children not in boarding schools had a disability.
Number of Institutions	2010: 134	
State-run/Privately Run	2007: 48 state-run. There were many privately run institutions that were not monitored.	
Conditions in Institutions	2010: The number of children in residential educational institutions for orphans was fixed by the govt. at between 10 and 200. However, they housed on average 640 children, and up to 750. Living conditions and the treatment of children in state-run institutions fell short of national legal requirements. Children suffered from hunger because the funds allocated for food were either insufficient or spent inefficiently. There was also a severe shortage of healthcare and hygiene resources, clothes and footwear. In most institutions ill treatment and punishment were common and many children suffered from neglect and a lack of medical care. Of particular concern was the prevalence of arbitrary punishment, many forms of which were cruel and degrading (punching, stick-beating, cleaning toilets for long periods, cleaning floors for a week, standing on 1 leg in the corner with arms raised, spending nights in rooms occupied by older children, food deprivation, unjustifiable institutionalisation in psychiatric hospitals, or deprivation of freedom for bad behaviour). Collective punishment was also used. Children in formal care said that punishment was often caused by not agreeing with a caregiver's opinion or actions. A child had no real opportunity to complain about unjust and degrading punishment.	

	There were no practical or legal procedures for challenging the actions of institution employees.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in residential institutions and schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2009: Foster care only existed as a pilot programme.	
Children in Group Homes	2007: 8 family-type homes, housing 200 children.	
Children under Guardianship	2011: 5,543	A child who was 10 years or older could be placed with a family only with their consent. Tutorship was established for children who had not reached the aged of 14. Guardianship was for children aged 14-18.
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 1,065	Foreign citizens and stateless persons could adopt children only if it was impossible to place them with Kyrgyz families permanently domiciled in Kyrgyzstan or to have them adopted by the children's relatives regardless of their citizenship and place of residence.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified. Started enforcing in 2016.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2010: Investigation agencies instigated 51 criminal proceedings for cases of official forgery, falsification, and use of counterfeit documents relating to intercountry adoption. 2008: Imposed a moratorium on intercountry adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	In 2009 pilot programmes in DI were all run by NGOs. In 2007 the govt. launched a plan for DI and for transforming residential institutions into day care centres, but there was no budget support.	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free
Healthcare	Free for children with disabilities, people with disabilities since birth, children under 5, orphaned children and children without parental care, children under 16 from families with 4 or more minor children.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	2010: The state had yet to decide on international adoption of children with physical and mental disabilities with limited chances of finding foster parents in Kyrgyzstan.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 200 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: 15 special boarding schools with a total of 2,425 pupils, 4 special general education schools catering for 482 children and 14 special preschool facilities with 1,256 children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2009: Pilot programme for day care in the community. Community-based rehabilitation facilities were mostly run by NGOs.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Lao (People's Democratic Republic)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 6,769,730	Under 18: 2,858,870
Number of Orphans	2016: 220,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	2011: Children constituted 58% of civilian casualties.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	7,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Girls were trafficked to Thailand for domestic or factory work, children were trafficked to China. 2015: 39 children were recorded to be victims of child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 17.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	There appeared to be a lack of information and regulation on formal care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2013: Poverty or inability of parents to care for (all) their children, access to education or healthcare, employment of parent or child (incl. seasonal or migratory work), birth out of wedlock, physical or mental disability of parent or child, natural disasters, children running away from home (due to domestic violence or substance use), and outsiders taking away children on promises of better living conditions, employment, or other opportunities.	
Children in Institutions	2010-2011: Almost 9,000 children attending Ethnic Minority Boarding Schools (some boarding, some living there permanently).	
Number of Institutions	2011: 27 Ethnic Minority Boarding Schools	Confusion about the different types of residential care institutions existed among the public. The term 'orphanage' was found in the official name of an EMBS and orphanages were described as institutions for children whose parent(s) died or whose families were poor.
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	Adolescents mentioned insufficient food, clothing, and school and hygiene materials, as well as stealing of personal property in the dormitories as difficult aspects of living at the EMBS.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	2017: SOS Children's Villages operated in 6 provinces.	

Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2015: 6% of children aged 0-14 were outside of parental care, of these, 99.1% of children living in a household without parental care lived with relatives. When a family faced problems the village headman would mobilize the villagers to help out either in practical or in financial ways. When parents could not care for their children, they might send them to live with relatives 'until they can go to vocational ethnic school'. Relatives provided accommodation, while children's parents might send money to buy food, clothes, and study and sports materials. Grandparents raising children when (young) parents were not capable or if parents passed away, happened in many settings.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Most adoption appeared to be informal and the terms 'adoption' and 'foster care' were used interchangeably.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2017: Moratorium on intercountry adoption remained in force. There were also irregularities in domestic adoption. If a person wanted to adopt a child, they could leave their contact info with the hospital. Hospital would call if there were mothers who did not want babies and these contacts would come, fill out paperwork and receive a baby. There was no checking up to ensure the child was going to a good home/family.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Outsiders came to recruit children with promises of a better future. Some voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free for pregnant women and children under age 5, in health centres and public hospitals. However, financial barriers still impeded access to health services.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	Child disability rates were as high as 11.5% amongst those living in rural areas without road access, children whose mothers had no education, children from the poorest quintile households and children of the Khmou ethnic group. The wealthier groups had noticeably lower child disability rates as most causes of child disability were preventable if the family had good healthcare and nutrition and the knowledge and means to reduce the likelihood of accidents.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 2,000.

Enrolled in School	In practice, it remained difficult for children with disabilities to attend school and drop-out rates for these students remained high.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2017: 1 school for the deaf, otherwise villages did not have special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Lebanon

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,821,970	Under 18: 1,273,870
Number of Orphans	2016: 40,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-country	
Violence	Clashes between army and Islamist and rebel groups.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 12,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,071,000 refugees, 53% of whom were children.	4,000 people left the country as refugees
Child Trafficking	2015: 2 cases of child trafficking were recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2011-2013: 36,575 families (comprising 171,903 members) were classified as falling below the lowest poverty line.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: There was a lack of a clear policy and a systematic vision as regards alternative care in Lebanon.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Family breakdown, poverty, Syrian refugees, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 25,157. 2017: 97 children with disabilities lived in institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2015: 201	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014-2016: 11 children were adopted domestically, these were non-Muslim children.	For Muslim children adoption is not permitted according to Islamic law.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		

Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Basic education is free. Free registration and textbooks for the poorest children.
Healthcare	Curative health services are provided at special rates to those not enjoying any public health coverage (50% of the people). Provides artificial limbs for those who lost limbs to mines or cluster bombs.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	The proportion of children with disabilities who were institutionalised decreased from 34% in 2004 to 19.37% in 2014. Despite the many changes in the negative perception of people with disabilities, the demand by people with disabilities for their right to participate in decision making, and a significant increase in the number of people with disabilities who received education at all its levels, disability remained a theme marred by many challenges
Children with Disabilities	2014: 10,390 children were registered as having a disability (registration was voluntary).
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2015: Between 70 and 75 integrated schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Malaysia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 29,716,970	Under 18: 9,426,350
Number of Orphans	2016: 450,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 94,000 refugees, 26% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked in from Indonesia and Thailand.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, disability, being orphaned, abuse, neglect and deprivation of parental rights.	
Children in Institutions	2018: 13,700. More than half of the children in institutions had disabilities.	
Number of Institutions	2013: 230 (known)	There were numerous privately run institutions throughout the country that were unregistered, it was estimated there may be more than 1,000, potentially housing a further 50,000 children.
State-run/Privately Run	2013: 23 state-run and 207 registered privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	1 study in Kuala Lumpur found caregiver to child ratios of 1:11-20 children. Of the 6 cottage-type complexes half were filled beyond official max. capacity by 30-50% in 1999.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2013: 148 foster families received remuneration.	The foster parent could return the child as long as they did it in person. The court could order that a child was placed in a foster family for 2 years or until the child is 18, whichever was shorter. The foster family could adopt the child if after 2 years the biological parents did not claim him and a welfare officer was unable to locate them.
Children in Group Homes	2013: 8 small group homes housing about 150 children.	A family/cottage-type system existed where 8-10 older children lived in gender-segregated cottages together

		with a caregiver. The cottage complex might include a medical clinic, pre-school or primary school classrooms and a space for vocational training.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2000: 3% of children under 18 were outside of parental care. There were cases of informal adoptions that were arranged between the adoptive parents and natural parents as well as temporary placements with relatives for the care of the children. There was no supervision over this procedure of adoption.	
Children in Kafalah	The child remained the obligation of the biological parent who remained the legal guardian. Kafalah did not make any child become a family member of the custodian or appointed guardian (kafeel). The child retained his natural parent's name, and he was still able to inherit from his biological father or mother.	
Children Adopted	2003: 961 adoptions were registered.	There were different adoption laws for Muslims and non-Muslims. Did not permit intercountry adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Adoptive parents went to an institution to select a child and could return the child if they were not satisfied – and trade it in for another if they wish.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism.	
Children Reunited with Family	2013: Only 4% of children in institutions returned to their family.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2018: The govt. worked together with NGOs towards DI. 2017: 451 children were taken out of institutions.	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Education allowance for children of single parents. Textbook loan scheme. Milk and food provided in schools to poor children.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 1,000. 2018: Mother-to-child transmitted HIV was eliminated this year.
Enrolled in School	2005: 20,662 children were enrolled in special education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2005: 32 special schools (28 primary and 4 secondary) which could accommodate 5,600 children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2005: 700 primary and secondary schools provided classes and programmes to allow integration of the children with disabilities.

Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Most of the information about non-institutional care found comes from 2006 and before.

Maldives

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 320,000	Under 18: 106,000
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 8.5% of the population was undernourished. 2005: 25% of children under 5 years old suffered from stunted growth, the malnutrition rate in the country was 1 of the highest in South Asia.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: The govt. set in place a system of alternative care for children deprived of parental care, ensuring a more systematic approach to guardian care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2015: 118	
Number of Institutions	2015: 2	
State-run/Privately Run	2015: 2 state-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2009: The orphanage was understaffed, and staff members were unable to provide sufficient care for children below the age of 5. Most employees were not trained in child psychology, and there were no provisions for medical emergencies. It was overcrowded. From 2010 children were increasingly placed in the Home for People with Special Needs, which was not mandated, nor equipped, to take care of children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2011: A judge assigned foster parents to a 10-month-old baby, this was the first time in the country's history that legal guardianship of a child was assigned to non-biological parents.	Previously foster parents risked biological parents turning up and demanding money or the child.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 3% of children aged 0-14 were outside of parental care, of these, 82.4% of children living in households without parental care lived with relatives. The law required various next of kin to be asked to care for an abandoned child before the state assumed responsibility.	

Children in Kafalah	2015: 2 children were placed in Kafalah.
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Universal healthcare insurance.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities were not fully integrated in society. Limited access to health, education, and professional assistance rendered this process difficult, and discrimination was worse for those not living in the capital and without easy access to essential services.
Children with Disabilities	2015: No disaggregated information on children with disabilities was available.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2015: 39 SEN units were present in mainstream schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Mongolia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,839,070	Under 18: 915,860
Number of Orphans	2016: 67,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 3,000	
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked to China. 2009-2013: 41 cases of child trafficking were recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 19.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: 71 children with disabilities were living in child fostering and care centres.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Migration, access to education, and preparation to becoming a Buddhist monk or nun.	
Children in Institutions	2017: 1,060 children were living in welfare centres. 2011: 1,362 children lived at temples, out which 15 were aged up to 8. 2013: 36,130 children were living in 506 secondary school dormitories.	Children lived in school dormitories throughout a schooling period, which was from 1 September to 1 July each year.
Number of Institutions	2017: 36	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: 3 state-funded and 33 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	A lack of procedures for child protection and the lack of procedures to prevent abuse led to insufficient understanding and knowledge of positive upbringing techniques and attitude by lamas and general staff. Religious institutions prioritise religious studies while depriving children stationed at those institutions of opportunities of receiving education that would meet present day standards, violating some of the child rights.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2017: 96	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 6% of children aged 0-14 were outside of parental care, of these, 97.4% of children living in households	Informal care was usually arranged for schoolchildren of herders, school-children of rural families who chose to

	without parental care were living with relatives.	study at urban schools to be able to pursue better quality education, children whose parents were divorced, children whose parents disappeared leaving them to stay at their relatives', children whose parents were gone for work abroad or in other parts of the country, or children who rode racing horses for money and lived at their horse trainers' camps
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2009-2013: 10,300 domestic adoptions and 49 intercountry adoptions.	The min. age of consent to adoption was 7 years old.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2000.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	Child adoption incentives stemmed from non-necessary reasons such as monetary interests, retirement benefit for raising many children, and the Glorious Mother medal and monetary benefits that accompany the medal.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Textbook loan system. Annual payment to children with disabilities for commuting costs to school.
Healthcare	Free for children under 18. Health Insurance Book provided to poor people. Medicine is free for children up to age 5. Prosthetics are provided free to children with disabilities.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes. Child Money for children in institutions is put in a bank account and kept for them.
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2015: 10,407 children with disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2016: 8,362 children with disabilities were enrolled in high school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	

Provision of Community Support	80 NGOs provided support.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Myanmar

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 53,259,020	Under 18: 16,096,48
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	War against various rebel groups, persecution of Rohinya people.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 213,000, particularly along the Bangladeshi and Thai borders.	
Refugees in 2015	3% of the world's refugees came from here, 452,000, and 40% of them were children.	
Child Trafficking	Girls were trafficked to Thailand for sexual exploitation, and boys to work in factories or on fishing boats. Children were also trafficked to Pakistan and Bangladesh. Repatriation, rehabilitation and follow-up programmes for trafficked children have been systematically carried out. 2006: 32 trafficked victims, incl. 9 children under 6 years.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 16.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 2.1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Child labour was common. Street children, usually aged 8-14, but sometimes as young as 3-4 years old were a problem.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: No strategy to prevent children from growing up in an institution.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, disability, access to education, being orphaned, and deprivation of parental rights.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 17,322 children at registered orphanages, but it was unknown how many unregistered orphanages existed.	Most of the children stayed in the institutions until they were 18 years old.
Number of Institutions	2005: 181 registered institutions.	Boarding/Monastic schools also took in children.
State-run/Privately Run	2005: 14 state-run. 2016: Most institutions were privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	The conditions in many monastic (non-state-run) institutions were poor and there was little awareness of children's needs.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	Only informal foster care existed.	
Children in Group Homes	A family/cottage-type system existed where 8-10 older children lived in gender-segregated cottages together under the supervision of a caregiver.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	There was only informal foster care, interchangeable with guardianship and adoption. Children taken in by families were often treated as domestic helpers and were at high risk for exploitation and abuse.	

Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2001-2006: 48	Did permit intercountry adoption, but did not have the legal framework to support it. Adoptive parents went to an institution to select a child and could return the child if they were not satisfied – and could trade it in for another if they wished during the 6-month custody period that preceded actual adoption. There were 3 types of adoption, under Buddhist law: *Kittima*, full adoption with inheritance (but the child was still not seen as on equal footing with biological children), *Apatthita*, adoption by compassion, the adopted child was sometimes allowed to inherit, *Chatta-batta* was a foundling who was not given inheritance rights.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism has been a growing industry, since the country opened up. Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Exemption from entrance fees and monthly tuition fees for poor children.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	2012: The Committee was concerned about the extremely low level of resources allocated to the social sectors, in particular education, health, and nutrition.

Disability	
Attitude	2012: The Committee was concerned about remaining widespread stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 11,000. 2005: Refusing admission to residential care institutions to HIV+ children was widely reported.
Enrolled in School	2009: 21,520
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	The Committee was concerned that efforts made to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities into the educational system and the community were insufficient, especially in rural and remote areas, and that only children with mild impairment in sight, hearing, and speaking, particularly those living in cities, were included in inclusive education programmes.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Nepal

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 27,797,460	Under 18: 11,525,920
Number of Orphans	2016: 650,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Low-income country	
Violence	In a post-conflict era, after a 10-year conflict ending in 2006, but with remaining tensions and contentious issues.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 19,000 refugees, 9% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	5,000-15,000 women and girls were trafficked annually to India for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Between 1,000 and 2,000 children were working in the circuses at any time.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 8.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	Recovering from devastating earthquake in 2014.	
Other Issues	2014: Estimated that over 5,000 children were living in the streets.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: Use of residential facilities was the primary form of alternative care in Nepal.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Single women might be pushed to give up their children, this also went for those who were widowed or divorced. Education was not always accessible in rural areas. It was common for Buddhist families to send their children to a monastery. Poverty, disability, street children, and the belief of many parents that a child will have better living conditions in a residential facility. If a woman remarried, she was often forced to leave her children behind as her new husband and his family would not accept them.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 15,811 children were living in registered residential facilities.	Before the boom in NGO-run orphanages after the civil war ended in 2005, childcare institutions were relatively unknown, other than wealthy families sending their children to
		boarding schools for secular education or Buddhist families sending their children to monasteries for religious education.
Number of Institutions	2013: 797 (various estimates were closer to 1,400 children's homes).	
State-run/Privately Run	2016: The vast majority of institutions was privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2011: Only 10% of children's homes met the govt.'s min. standards. 2008: The smaller the institution, the worse it was for the children. Corruption was rampant, especially in homes set up especially for adoption. Often children were put into under-resourced substandard facilities 'where it was not uncommon for their identities to be changed and records falsified'. Facilities	

	housed up to 502 children. Cases of sexual and other abuses have been reported. A study also found practices such as 'hitting children', 'isolating them', and 'locking them inside the toilet'.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2012: Local NGOs with the help of Terre des Hommes, achieved some state involvement in setting up small-scale foster care projects.	The term foster care was sometimes also used for informal care and residential care was sometimes labelled as 'foster care home'.
Children in Group Homes	2016: 10 SOS Children's Villages and a number of other providers replicated their model.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 5% of children aged 0-14 were outside of parental care, out of these, 94.6% of children living in households without parental care lived with relatives. Informal 'foster care' was a common response to the care of children who were either orphaned or who were unable to live in parental care for other reasons incl. those of poverty.	Since the conflict of 1995-2006 informal care became less common.
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2009-2013: 241 domestic adoptions.	Intercountry adoption was suspended in 2011.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed, not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	In some cases, children were unjustifiably declared adoptable (and adopted internationally) without the consent of biological parents. Prospective adopters and agencies were required to make 'humanitarian aid' contributions, as a condition for adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake in 2015 the govt. issued an order that no new residential facilities were to open, and no children could be transported between districts. Check points were set up, and there were reports of children being stopped from leaving their own districts when not in the care of parents or family. Voluntourism also contributed to the orphanage 'industry'. Ex-orphanage youth sometimes turned to orphanage trafficking, because it was the only thing they knew. Children were deliberately trafficked from their family to meet the demands of the volunteering industry, and to attract international donations. In some cases, children were deliberately not cared for well, because poorer conditions	There was an offer and demand dynamic. Families looking for better education for their children succumbed to the deceptive promises of a network of traffickers who strategically convinced parents to turn over relatively large sums of money or exchange of precious goods or land in return for taking their children to Kathmandu or India. Although the govt. had issued regulations regarding the visits of tourists and volunteers, incl. strict penalties if volunteers were found to be residing in the residential facilities, this practice was known to continue.

	attract more money. 90% of children's homes were located in the top 5 tourist areas. They paid a trafficking network to falsify death certificates of parents, declare their children orphans, and subject the children to horrific living conditions in illegal institutions in Kathmandu.	
Children Reunited with Family	2006-2014: 200. However, due to false documentation and lack of other information, 128 children had to be placed in other residential facilities.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2016: The govt.'s strategy to children's welfare at a national level was to improve the standards of institutions as opposed to taking steps to close them down and developing family-based options.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Often not locally accessible or affordable to families.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Serious gaps in service provision.

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities were less likely to be adopted domestically. Even residential facilities did not want to accept children with disabilities, only 1 specialised SOS Children's Village did.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 2,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Some
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Oman

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,632,440	Under 18: 1,025,990
Number of Orphans	2016: 41,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 36,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 6.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	CRC report stated: 'The proportion of children deprived of family care is very low and does not constitute a phenomenon.'
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Disability, abuse, and being orphaned.
Children in Institutions	2015: 148 children lived in Welfare Centres. 2010: 3,509 children with a disability were living in rehabilitation centres and special schools, it was not clear what proportion of them lived there permanently and what proportion was only boarding for education.
Number of Institutions	2015: 1
State-run/Privately Run	2015: Welfare Centres were all state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	Institutional care was family-type group home style.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	2015: 358
Children in Group Homes	The Child Welfare Centre applied the SOS Children's Villages system, providing family-type placements.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	
Healthcare	Free for all children. Compensatory aids and assistive devices for people with disabilities are provided.
Poverty Relief	Social security benefits available for orphans, incapacitated persons, widows, prisoners' families, divorced women, children of unknown parentage, and abandoned children.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2015: 424 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2015: 244 inclusive primary schools and 151 inclusive secondary schools. 1,565 children with a disability attended inclusive schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Pakistan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 176,745,000	Under 18: 73,227,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 4.2 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	War against Islamist militants, and tensions on the border with India.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1.5 million	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1.56 million refugees, 50% of whom were children.	2% of the world's refugees came from here, 298,000, and 58% of them were children.
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked (through buying, renting, coercing, or kidnapping) for begging, forced marriage, domestic servitude, and prostitution, or to spy, fight, or die as a suicide bomber in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Trafficked into the country from Myanmar. There was a lack in clarity in laws on internal trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 19.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2016: Extreme poverty levels in the country remained high, particularly among children.	
Environment/Climate	Catastrophic drought conditions and natural disasters. In 2010 and 2012 there were flood disasters.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Foster care was not part of the alternative care arrangements.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2009: 20,000 abandoned babies were saved by putting cradles in front of centres to put unwanted children in. Unwed mothers abandoned their babies. Being orphaned and poverty.
Children in Institutions	2007: 8,356
Number of Institutions	2007: 91
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2016: Quranic schools were given total autonomy in designing the religious curriculum without govt. oversight and children were reportedly being exploited, incl. for commercial purposes, by the administrations. The Committee was concerned that private Quranic schools were often used for child recruitment and military training by non-state armed groups. Institutions lacked appropriate medical, psychological, and educational facilities.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in some parts of the country.
Children in Foster Care	The govt. did not provide foster care.
Children in Group Homes	2009: SOS Children's Villages was active.
Children under Guardianship	

Children in Informal Care	2015: Of the children living in households without parental care 96% lived with relatives.	2016: The majority of the population lived in the rural areas and the extended family support system was strong, which safeguarded children.
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2009: 331 former camel jockeys were repatriated, 325 of whom were reunited with their families.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	2016: The provision of free education was almost finalised.
Healthcare	Free medical treatment at public hospitals for people with disabilities and their dependents/family members.
Poverty Relief	Yes, but insufficient and did not extend to the poorest in society.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	50% discount on rail and airfare.
Family Support	Insufficient

Disability	
Attitude	The lack of disability-friendly transport services, buildings, and trained teachers in rural areas who could handle the learning needs of special children were greater problems than social prejudice and parental attitude in slum areas. The Committee was very concerned about reports of the frequent abandonment of children with disabilities due to their widespread stigmatisation by society.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 3,500 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	2009: Vast majority of children with disabilities never attended school and majority of children dropped out if they managed to get admission due to inaccessible school infrastructure and unfriendly school environment from a disability perspective.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	In Sindh state: yes.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Papua New Guinea

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 7,321,260	Under 18: 3,263,050
Number of Orphans	2013: Estimated 300,000, of whom 15,000 children orphaned by AIDS.	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 9,300 Indonesian refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements	
Children in Alternative Care	Govt. welfare services were totally inadequate to deal with child protection, and case workers and counsellors were rarely committed to work with families outside main district centres, outside their normal public-service working hours and their own comfortable and safe govt. office environment.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2002: 'Destitute, neglected, incorrigible and uncontrollable' children could be removed from their parents without a warrant.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	2002: No institutions were reported to exist.
State-run/Privately Run	2018: When googling, a number of orphanages run by faith-based organisations came up.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only corporal punishment of children 'in the care of the director' was prohibited. 2002: Beatings and excessive punishment of children at the hands of parents or guardians, or the adults charged formally or informally with the care and protection of children, were common.
Children in Foster Care	2002: Formal foster placements were a thing of the past, as Child Welfare had no budgetary provision to cover the cost incurred by foster arrangements.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	Thousands of children in Papua New Guinea, through a range of loose, ad hoc, accidental, and obligatory circumstances, were living for years in families where no one was their real parent or willing to assume the full responsibilities of a 'legal' guardian.
Children in Informal Care	Social practices where children were readily and informally 'adopted' contributed significantly to malnutrition rates and infant mortality, this was well documented in the highlands, where it was estimated that in 1 province alone, there were about 300 infants each year who were adopted in early life who developed severe marasmus or kwashiorkor. Traditionally, this was unlikely to happen

	because children were adopted by mothers who lived close to the biological mother, and the child was not denied access to the mother's breast milk. The larger social safety net, in which Papua New Guinea children were presumed to be raised, was no longer stable or guaranteed. Ceremonies and conferring of roles and rights did not always take place anymore. Certain individuals, like maternal uncles, were no longer automatically assigned or assuming particular customary roles and responsibilities in child-rearing and protection. Often these ties were only symbolic because people were not physically around to perform them.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	The law allowed for statutory and customary adoption. Statutory adoption required consideration of parents' and guardians' consent and suitability of adopting parents. The govt. did not take the lead in placing children in adoptive homes.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2002: Many of the informal adoptions of children constituted the illicit transfer and non-return of children. There were cases of relatives or friends pressuring or obliging mothers to give up their children, then refusing to let them have access, contact, or to return them.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Schooling was not free, not compulsory, and not universally available. Many communities were not well served by schools and thousands of potential students remain outside formal schooling.
Healthcare	2002: Govt. rural health infrastructure was characterised by disrepair, lack of the most basic supplies and insufficient funds to maintain operational transport and the emergency referral and transport of patients.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Few

Disability	
Attitude	In a traditional setting, disability was commonly associated with spirits and sorcery and a child with disabilities might suffer taunts and discrimination born of ignorance and fear. Parents and extended family usually cared for children with disabilities, providing food and shelter, but children with disabilities were very often overprotected, even secluded and prevented from developing their potential.
Children with Disabilities	Neglect of many common, treatable health problems caused serious disability. In some very difficult environments, like swamps and mountain regions, children with disabilities were extremely limited in their capacity to move around freely, even with aids.

Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 4,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Some, mostly provided by NGOs. There was no formal training for physiotherapy or occupational therapy, and limited but growing training for special education.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Additional Comments

Not much information is available and what was found stems from 2002.

Philippines

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 98,393,570	Under 18: 39,758,040
Number of Orphans	2016: 1.9 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict against Islamist militants. The president's war on drugs.	
Landmines	Suspected residual landmines.	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 8,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked to South-Korea, Japan, Costa Rica, New Zealand, USA, and the Northern Mariana Islands. There was more internal child trafficking reported than international child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 13.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2015: 11% of children aged 5-14 were working, often under hazardous circumstances.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: The provision of social services was completely decentralised, leading to a great disparity between the services provided in different areas.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Neglect, abuse, abandonment, street children, disability, and discrimination against children of single mothers or from broken homes.	
Children in Institutions	2003: 2,686. 2010: 383 children with disabilities lived in residential care.	
Number of Institutions	2017: 306 (incl. those for children in conflict with the law).	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: 109 state-run and 197 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2017: Capacity of 30-490 children, however admissions exceeded capacity in these facilities.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in all settings except the home.	
Children in Foster Care	Extensive background checks were done for foster families in the recruitment stage. Foster Family Care Licences were valid for 3 years, but could be revoked or renewed. Emergency foster care was in place, as was long-term foster care.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2000: 5% of children were outside of parental care.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2017: 357 domestic adoptions, 85 of whom came from residential institutions, 143 intercountry adoptions, 67 of whom came from residential institutions.	2009: A moratorium was announced on accepting new applications for intercountry adoption of a child under the age of 25 months with or without medical or developmental concerns, due to the long waiting list of parents wanting to adopt. In 2012 this was lifted.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education is free.
Healthcare	Not everyone was able to access or afford medical care.
Poverty Relief	Conditional cash grants.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Discount on goods and services if registered as having a disability.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2010: 4,885
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 510 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Qatar

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,168,670	Under 18: 347,380
Number of Orphans	2016: 14,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 26,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Being orphaned, child of unwed, widowed, or divorced mother, child of prisoners, mentally ill persons and drug addicts, abuse, and neglect.
Children in Institutions	2016: 49 children were placed in social care institutions.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2016: Institutions appeared to be state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2013: 521 children were in foster care.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some apparent voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary level through the preparatory level is free.
Healthcare	Rehabilitation programme is free for hospitalised patients and outpatients.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2011: School materials and transport were provided by the state.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2011: 5,771 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2011: 1,487 children, distributed as follows: kindergarten 82, primary 841, preparatory 324, and secondary 240.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Saudi Arabia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 28,828,870	Under 18: 9,689,170
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	At war with Houthis in Yemen and clashes between army and IS.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2007: Despite having laws in place against trafficking, it was estimated that tens of thousands of children were still being trafficked in from Afghanistan, Chad, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, and Yemen for exploitative labour, sexual exploitation, to be camel jockeys, and for beggary. 2014: This was still an issue, though more was done about it.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Estimated 83,000 children were begging in the streets of the major cities.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: 3,700 'orphaned' children were not living with families, 1,300 were cared for by the state and 2,400 by charitable organisations.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2007: Abandonment, family breakdown, chronic illness, or death of caregiver.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 3,700	The Friendly Family programme where families were coupled with orphans living in a welfare homes and took them to their home as a guest for a set period of time, feast days, weekends, or summer holidays. After the set period, the child returned to the institution.
Number of Institutions	2009: 16	
State-run/Privately Run	2014: The majority of institutions was run by charitable organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions	They were provided with full care, incl. accommodation, subsistence, and clothing. The children were divided into 'families' according to age group and category.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2016: 8,600	The child remained in the care of the foster family for an indefinite period. Alternative families took on the care of the remaining cases. These families received a monthly payment.
Children in Group Homes	Guesthouses: The houses had 12 'families', each with an independent housing unit and no more than 6 children between the ages of 2 and 12 years for males and until marriage	A guest department had also been established in homes for the care of children with disabilities in order to receive some girls leaving education homes, certain age groups with

	for females. The house was careful to create a family atmosphere that simulated the social bonds of the natural family. 2009-2010: 73 children benefitted from these services.	adjustment difficulties living with alternative families, those whose foster mother had died, and children suffering from certain problems.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah	The Kafalah families programme focused on complete and permanent alternative family care of orphans to obtain psychological security and emotional satisfaction for them by providing them with a family atmosphere that might not be available to them in a welfare home.	
Children Adopted		
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free for Saudi nationals. Prosthetic devices are provided.
Poverty Relief	The breadwinner's pension can be passed on to widows and orphans after his death.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities still faced de facto discrimination in daily life, despite the govt.'s effort to ensure their integration in the community.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Singapore

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 5,411,740	Under 18: 1,089,480
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	A trafficking destination.	
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Children at risk of being separated from their families because of safety concerns were provided with intensive support to remain safely in their families.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Abuse, family break-up, and disability.
Children in Institutions	2007: 530 children were newly admitted to institutions.
Number of Institutions	2009: 24
State-run/Privately Run	2011: Institutions for children with disabilities were funded by the state but managed by voluntary organisations.
Conditions in Institutions	Diversified residential care options to suit children's different needs.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2007: 289
Children in Group Homes	2017: Children with higher needs were placed in small group homes where they received more intensive and specialised care in smaller residential home settings.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Since 2012, all prospective adopters had to attend a pre-adoption briefing on the adoption process, eligibility criteria, and adoptive parents' responsibilities.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Financial support for school-going children.
Healthcare	There is a mandatory basic insurance scheme to cover treatment costs of serious hospitalisations, with financial assistance for households unable to pay the fees.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Child-subsidies, means tested.
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2017: The majority of children with SEN had access to education in mainstream or special education schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2017: 20 special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: 13 special schools had established partnerships with 18 mainstream schools to help promote inclusive education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Sri Lanka

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 21,045,000	Under 18: 6,154,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 340,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict between Sinhalese govt. and Tamils.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 22.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Poverty, disability, and dysfunctional families. 2010: Parents placed their children in institutions to remove them from situations of potential harm, such as conscription into armed groups.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 14,175	
Number of Institutions	2016: 414	There was a boom in orphanages after the 2004 tsunami.
State-run/Privately Run	2016: 8% state-run and 92% privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2007: A study found that out of 488 voluntary residential homes, only 2% were compliant with standards for individual care of children.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2008: While foster care was mentioned in legislation, there was a lack of effective systems.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010-2014: 8,638 domestic adoptions.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	There were serious suspicions of child trafficking in adoption procedures, leading to a moratorium on adoptions in 2004. From 2010 there was mention of eligibility for intercountry adoption again.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2012: UNICEF reunited 616 children living in institutions with their families.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012: Parents of children in childcare institutions were encouraged to take their children back, for which financial assistance and guidance were provided by the state.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free. Free school uniforms are provided, 2 per child.
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2018: About 1,203,000 school-aged children were in need of special attention in education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2018: 25 special schools for those who were severely disabled and unable to adapt to conditions in a normal classroom.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2018: 704 Special Education Units attached to the mainstream schools to cater to the needs of children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Syrian Arab Republic

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 21,898,060	Under 18: 9,084,970
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Civil war between the govt. and ISIL, Nusrah Front, Ahrar al-Sham, Army of Islam, Free Syrian Army. Called 'a crisis' by the govt.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 6.6 million	
Refugees in 2015	30% of the world's refugees came from Syria and 49% of them were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty	2017: 51.6% of the population experienced food insecurity. Over 80% of the population was estimated to live below the poverty line.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2017: The care took 2 forms: internal care within the institution or external care within the child's nuclear or extended family.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Victims of violence and ill treatment. 2009: Being orphaned and abandonment, children born out of wedlock were often abandoned.	
Children in Institutions	2009: 3,252	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2009: 2 state-run. 2007: 35 charitably run.	
Conditions in Institutions	An NGO in partnership with the govt. built a 20,000 m3 housing complex, in which abandoned children lived in an intimate family environment modelled on that of a natural family.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	Children who were placed with foster families were monitored by committees. 2017: SOS Children's Villages ran a training programme for foster mothers.	
Children in Group Homes	1 NGO operating in partnership with the govt. runs small group homes.	
Children under Guardianship	Kafalah was equated with guardianship.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah	2012: Some 3,100 children benefitted from external Kafalah.	The religion provided for the system of Kafalah and placement in foster families, on condition that the filiation of the children concerned was not altered to prevent them from knowing who their biological parents were (if their identity subsequently came to light) and to rejoin them. External Kafalah enabled a child to remain with their parent(s) instead of being placed in a residential facility. It involved a private person (kafeel) providing the parent(s) with regular financial support for the child's upkeep and education.
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption. Adoption was permitted in Christian communities under their separate personal status codes.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Basic education is free and compulsory up to 9th grade, even in remote and desert areas and in different kinds of schools (tents, caravans).
Healthcare	Primary healthcare is free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	For any poor family that looks after a person with disabilities suffering from cerebral palsy.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	The govt. issued directives, confirming that children with mild and moderate motor and mental disabilities and visual and auditory impairments could enrol in school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments *(see page 296)*

Additional Comments

Most information found is from before the outbreak of the civil war in 2011, the systems described will no longer be in place, but it is still useful to be aware of what was there. The information from the 2017 CRC report was provided by the govt., which persistently calls the war 'the crisis' and mostly pretends that all is fine, apart from some nuisance caused by 'terrorist groups' and by 'unilateral coercive measures' by other countries, with people fleeing the countries being described as 'people choosing to emigrate'. And no statistics were provided.

Tajikistan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 8,207,830	Under 18: 3,467,000
Number of Orphans	2016: 220,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and Islamist groups.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2014: The courts considered 7 criminal cases against 12 persons for trafficking minors.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 30.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 3.3% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Boarding schools were a majority of the institutions present, providing education to children from remote areas. Of children not in boarding schools more than 60% had a disability. Also, poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 10,395 children were reported to live in institutions (169 of them aged 0-3 years), 72% of them lived in boarding schools. 1,774 children had a disability.	By changing the gatekeeping system, the number of children with disabilities placed in institutions was reduced by 30% in 2009.
Number of Institutions	2016: 4 institutions for children up to age 4 (not boarding schools).	
State-run/Privately Run	2016: All state-run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 2,100	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2011: 955	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 470 domestic adoptions and 2 intercountry adoptions.	A 2006 law prohibited adoption of Tajik children by non-Tajik people, although if a couple had 1 Tajik partner, adoption was allowed.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	2007: 38% of infants who lived in infant homes, were eventually taken back by their family again.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2009: UNICEF helped with the DI programme in 5 institutions, 3 of which were transformed into regular schools with day care facilities, more than 1,500 children were deinstitutionalised during the 4-year programme, although the monitoring of reunited children afterwards was questionable.

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Basic education free at public schools. At subsequent stages free education is provided on a competitive basis.
Healthcare	Medical care for children with disabilities is free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	2009: Pilot programme for family support in communities.

Disability	
Attitude	2003: A study found that children with disabilities were often cared for in medically styled institutions and their parents might be encouraged to hand them over. Husbands frequently divorced their wives as a direct result of having given birth to a child with a disability.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 1,000.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2014: 5,244 children with disabilities were enrolled in general education institutions.
Provision of Community Support	Yes, incl. day care centres.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Thailand

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 67,010,500	Under 18: 14,861,720
Number of Orphans	2016: 1.4 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Coup d'Etat in May 2014, unrest since.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted refugee camp for people from Myanmar.	
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked from Cambodia and Myanmar for sexual exploitation and factory work and work on fishing boats. Girls were trafficked in from Lao to work in factories and do domestic work. And children were trafficked out to Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 9.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2005: 20,000-30,000 children were estimated to have been active in prostitution.	

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, disability, being orphaned, and deprivation of parental rights.	
Children in Institutions	2009: 6,388	Institutional care was temporary care provided both on a short-term basis no longer than 3 months and a long-term basis with a view of returning children to the families or referring them to communities or NGOs in cases where it was not possible to return them to their families.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	Most residential institutions were run by private or faith-based organisations and most were located in urban areas.	
Conditions in Institutions	Shelter, food, clothing, and education were usually provided, but developmental needs did not seem as well addressed. Violation of child rights and inappropriate care for children remained a problem in some childcare centres, due to attitudes of administrators and shortage of professionals in some specialised fields.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 4,471 children were placed in foster care by govt. services. 90% of children were placed in foster care without being placed in institutions first. However, once institutionalised, only 7% of children found foster care placements after.	Familiarisation took place before placement and home visits continued after placement. A cash allowance was available for foster families.

Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	2015: 20% of children aged 0-14 were without parental care, out of these, of the children living in households without parental care 98.6% lived with relatives.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Permitted intercountry adoption as well as adoption by foreign nationals in the country. Both in domestic and intercountry adoption they required a 6-month trial period, to see if the child bonded well.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Education is free and compulsory for 12 years. There are also student loans and grants for deprived students. A number of schools are in need of teaching and learning equipment and improved facilities.
Healthcare	Hearing aids and surgery provided to children with hearing impairments or deafness.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2011: 74,502 children with disabilities registered.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 8,000.
Enrolled in School	4 types of education for people with disabilities: integration in mainstream class, periodical integration in mainstream class, parallel integration, and special education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2011: 276,129 people with disabilities could access education from special education centres in 63 provinces, 272,506 from 43 special schools, 1,670 access vocation education, 1,953 were in higher education.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes. Also, for people with disabilities, shortages of equipment and living aids were attempted to be solved by researches on replacement with local material and local technology.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Timor L'Este

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,132,880	Under 18: 616,080
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Source country for child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 26.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	The development of the child protection system incl. the laws regulating alternative care arrangements was regarded as a priority.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Children born of adulterous relationships were often abandoned. Also, physical and sexual abuse, and being orphaned.	
Children in Institutions	2014: 3,500	Most shelters only offered support to female children.
Number of Institutions	2014: 59	
State-run/Privately Run	2014: The majority was run by the Catholic Church.	The govt. provided varying levels of support to institutions incl. financial support, the provision of materials, equipment, and training.
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 8% of children aged 0-14 were without parental care, of these, 99.7% of children living in households without parental care lived with their relatives. The practice of sending children to live with extended family was widespread and encouraged. The majority of adoptions continued to occur informally through families and extended families	Informal adoptions were not subject to any law or policy.

	according to custom and culture. There was no data available on the extent of informal adoption.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2015: There was no data available on adoption at national or intercountry level.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Several voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2000-2005: At least 200, after the 1999 conflict.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Universal, compulsory, and free for the first 9 years. Scholarships are available for vulnerable families.
Healthcare	2013: The health system was not advanced enough to enable specialised treatment for all types of illnesses. If necessary, people were referred to hospitals in Australia, Indonesia and Singapore, and the govt. bore the cost.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes, plus provision of food and sporting equipment.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2013: The govt. was yet to develop a comprehensive and specific national policy on disability.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	In many districts children with disabilities were unable to attend school due to accessibility issues.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2011: 1 special school in the capital, 31 students attended it.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: A start made with training some teachers from mainstream schools in special education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Turkey

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 74,932,640	Under 18: 23,105,460
Number of Orphans	2016: 1.2 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Conflict with Kurds and attacking IS in Syria.	
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 1 million	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 2.5 million refugees, the most in the world.	
Child Trafficking	A destination country for human trafficking from Georgia. 2006: 14 cases of child trafficking were recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2011: 725 children came under state care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, abandonment, being orphaned and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2006: 20,175 (incl. both large-scale ones and group homes).	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	Children unable to feed themselves due to disability were often not helped to eat by staff, so they became severely malnourished and might starve or die of dehydration. Lack of rehabilitation and physical therapy for children with disabilities, they were left in total inactivity. Children with severe disabilities were denied medical care and left to die. Restraints were used. Sexual abuse was common. In 2003 there were institutions where children of all ages – incl. under 3 – were housed together with adults with disabilities or mental health problems. Electric shock therapy was used on children as young as 9 years old.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2008: A total of 4,195 children had been placed in foster homes to date, with 813 still in those foster homes. 2006: 26 children with disabilities were installed with foster parents.	
Children in Group Homes	2008: 9 'Affection Homes' consisting of 79 detached duplex or triplex houses, housing 10-12 children each, providing care for 632 children and 64 'Children's Homes' (in detached houses or apartments), housing 5-8 children aged 0-12 each, serving 364 children.	A move to replace large facilities with smaller, homier centres under the names 'Child Houses' and 'Compassion Houses' had begun. These units housed a max. of 10 to 12 children in a family atmosphere, free from the negative effects of life in large groups. 'Child Houses' were established in apartment flats or houses, preferably at the town centre, close to schools and hospitals, in a fashion to create a home atmosphere housing 6-8 children younger than 18.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2004: 1 intercountry adoption. 2009: The number of adoptions per year fluctuated between 450-600.	The adopter had to take care of the adoptee for a year before adoption could take place. Parental consent had to be given (unless the parents were unknown or stripped of parental rights) and this could not be given until 6 weeks after the birth of the child.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 2004.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Few voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2005: 5,514 (out of 21,000).	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2003-2009: 22 orphanages were closed, and almost all of the other institutions were transformed into family-type homes. The reform plan envisaged transforming 10% of residential institutions into family-type homes every year and returning 1,000 children to their families every year.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free, scholarships provided on merit for students lacking financial means to continue education.
Healthcare	Free basic healthcare up to age 6. All children under 18 are covered by health insurance.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Care and rehabilitation costs are covered.
Family Support	Free day care for very poor children.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2005-2006: The govt. provided transport services for 16,171 children attending special schools or special classes.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2005-2006: 25,238 children with disabilities attended special education.

Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2005-2006: 1,480 Special Education Classes within primary schools, 576 teachers provided education to 8,921 students. 45,532 students in 7,422 schools were following 'Adaptation Education'.
Provision of Community Support	Yes. There was no community-based care for people with mental disabilities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Turkmenistan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 5,240,070	Under 18: 1,777,520
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Traditionally the only forms of family-based substitute care were guardianship and adoption. 2014: 26 children were placed in family-based care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Disability.	
Children in Institutions	2011: 706	2009: The rate of institutionalisation was relatively low and stagnant, probably due to an apparent low rate of extreme poverty and strong family ties.
Number of Institutions	2011: 6	
State-run/Privately Run	2011: All state-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2009: Institutions were well funded by the govt. and also received considerable support from private sponsors. They did not operate at full capacity, the ratio of staff to children in residential institutions was high.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	The state assisted and funded the establishment and running of family-type children's homes.	
Children under Guardian-ship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 1,373 adoptions. In the period 2005-2010, there were no cases of Turkmen children being adopted by foreign citizens.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	
Healthcare	Free. Medicine, wheelchairs for people with disabilities, and prosthetic, orthopaedic, and other such appliances are available free of charge or on preferential terms.
Poverty Relief	Gas, electricity, and drinking water are free until 2030.
Child Allowance	For families with children below 3, families with many children and families that have lost the breadwinner.
Disability Allowance	Yes. And mothers bringing up a child with a disability up to the age of 16, persons under 18 without any parents, and persons under 21 receive full temporary incapacity benefit, irrespective of how long they have spent in employment.
Family Support	2009: Pilot programme, not govt. funded.

Disability	
Attitude	The health systems sometimes lay the ground for discrimination against people with a disability, pressure was often placed on parents to relinquish a baby with disabilities. Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities might be hidden away from the world.
Children with Disabilities	2011: 10,100 of children with disabilities under 16 years old received disability allowance.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

United Arab Emirates

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 9,346,130	Under 18: 1,666,200
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2016: Children were being trafficked from Mauritania to act as child jockeys. The govt. claimed that there were no longer any child jockeys since they were replaced by robotic jockeys. The Committee was concerned that children continued to be trafficked to the country for the purpose of sexual exploitation or for forced begging, that such children were not properly identified and were often deported without proper identification. The Committee was also concerned that not all forms of the sale of children were properly criminalised.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Children born out of wedlock faced serious discrimination. Also, disability.	
Children in Institutions	2013: Apparently, no residential institutional childcare.	Until 2013 abandoned children were cared for by Latifa Hospital until permanent homes were found.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2013: The govt. launched a foster care system. Welfare authorities were calling for de-facto foster parents caring for children to come forward.	
Children in Group Homes	2013: On the launch of the new system 1 family had already been put together.	2013: Under the new system, groups of up to 6 children would be looked after by a paid foster mother in settings as close as possible to those of a normal Emirati family. The children would stay in these homes for as long as was needed, until permanent surrogate families could be found for them.

Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	Families took children in without notifying the govt., these families were requested to come forward so that they could become part of the official foster care system.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption, but couples were encouraged to foster abandoned children as guardians.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free
Healthcare	Hearing, visual and mobility aides are provided free of charge.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	2001: People with disabilities and with special needs were divided into 3 categories: those who could be taught, those who could be trained, and those with severe or multiple disabilities who could neither be taught nor trained. Most of these suffer from health problems that necessitate their admission to govt. hospitals.
Children with Disabilities	2015: There was a lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities and a lack of measures to include them in recreational, sport, and cultural activities, which remain mostly segregated.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2015: The Committee was concerned that priority was still given to the provision of special education, incl. in mainstream schools, over the development of a fully inclusive educational system.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Uzbekistan

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 28,934,100	Under 18: 9,994,980
Number of Orphans	2016: 780,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and Uzbekistan's Islamic Jihad Union.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2007: 2,523, or 38.7% of 0-2-year olds were left without parental care. 25,503 children were in family-based care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2007: Single parent family, poverty, parental substance abuse or imprisonment, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2008: 109,189 (incl. residential schools), plus 15,014 children lived in residential schools for children with special needs. 1,296 children with disabilities lived in residential homes.	
Number of Institutions	2008: 437	
State-run/Privately Run	2008: All state-run, but with support from private organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions	2005: Average number of children per institution: 54-299. The children were provided with nutrition, clothing, footwear, and supplies, and were entitled to free access to cinemas, exhibits, museums, and sport facilities, and to free use of public urban and suburban transports (except taxis), incl. the metro.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2008: 78	2009: Foster care had been given a legal framework and funding, started as a pilot programme. As a rule, the total number of children in a foster family, incl. both biological and foster children, could not exceed 8. The placement of foster children took place voluntarily on the basis of a special agreement between guardianship and custody bodies and the prospective foster parents. The children's wish to be placed with them was taken into account. At age 10 or over, the child's consent was needed for placement in a foster family. Children related to each other were as a rule placed in the same foster family unless they should not be brought up together for medical or other reasons.
Children in Group Homes	2008: 217 children lived in family-type children's homes. SOS Children's Villages was active here.	
Children under Guardianship	2007: 2,001 children were placed under guardianship.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014: 1,997, down from 2,406 children adopted domestically and 9 internationally in 2006.	An adoption could be considered as null and void or cancelled only through a judicial procedure. In hearing such cases, the views of the child had to be considered, if the child had reached the age of 10. For a child of Uzbek citizens to be adopted by foreign citizens, their state had to have a diplomatic mission in Uzbekistan.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Few voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2009: 292, from institutions.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2004-2009: 6 orphanages were closed, and the number of children aged 0-16 living in institutions decreased by 25%.	2009: Residential institutional care was still widely seen as positive and there was a strong emphasis on the improvement of conditions in the institutions.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free for 12 years.
Healthcare	Free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	For children up to age 2.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	2009: Pilot programmes of family support centres.

Disability

Attitude	2009: The practice of keeping a child with disabilities at home without socialisation or placing them in a residential facility was still prevalent, there was a strong stigma attached to disability. Some families did not receive appropriate services, because they were afraid to reveal that they had a child with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	2009: 123,066 children with disabilities registered.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated 3,000.

Enrolled in School	2009: 11,493 children with various defects received instruction at home.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009: 89 specialised residential schools were attended by 18,460 children. 122 specialised preschool establishments to 9,095 children with special needs.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2009: Approximately 400 children were integrated into general education at 20 pilot schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Viet Nam

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 91,679,730	Under 18: 25,078,280
Number of Orphans	2016: 1.4 million	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Girls were trafficked to Cambodia for sexual exploitation. There was even more internal child trafficking reported than international child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 10.7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 2.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2010: Children with HIV were overrepresented in residential care. Poverty, abandonment, disability, and victims of toxic chemicals.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 21,500	Foreign donors showed a preference for funding and fixing up institutions rather than supporting community-based alternatives.
Number of Institutions	2010: 245	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2010: There was no publicly regulated foster care system.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 5% of children aged 0-14 were without parental care, out of these, 99.3% of children living in households without parental care lived with relatives. The number of traditional style families that lived with several generations had decreased, particularly in urban areas. At the same time, urban areas attracted many migrant workers from rural areas, creating new nuances for Vietnamese families.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2008: A moratorium on intercountry adoption.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	Boys were trafficked to China for illegal adoption. Prospective adopters and agencies were required to make 'humanitarian aid' contributions, as a condition for adoption. Many parents or legal guardians were not fully aware of the legal consequences of agreement to child adoption. Another difficulty was the existence of illegal go-betweens of child granting and adoption.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2009: The family tracing as well as repatriation of trafficked children still faced many difficulties due to the unavailability of specific regulations on procedures, policies, work division, and decentralisation.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2010: Evidence suggested that rather than closing down large-scale institutions for children and adults with disabilities, more money was spent building them. 2006: More than 63,900 children were given subsidies in communes and wards, and were reared in communities by their relatives and sponsors. 2005: A plan to move more towards DI, however part of this plan was to move from bigger to smaller institutions, within the community.

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Educational fee exemption for grade schoolers.
Healthcare	Discounted or free of charge healthcare services for children and mothers. Free for children up to 6.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	2012: The additional cost of disability borne by families was 9% of income. Launched targeted social protection initiatives that included cash transfers specifically for children with disabilities.
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	2009: While there was a general tolerance towards children with disabilities and their families, instances of stigmatisation and discrimination persisted. The appearance of children with disabilities at festivals like *Tet* (lunar new year) was considered detrimental to good fortune. The awareness of society on educating children with disabilities was not high, while the education facilities for children with disabilities were poor with limited concern from the social partners in the field.
Children with Disabilities	The accessibility of children with disabilities to healthcare and education services was still limited.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 5,400 children under age 15.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	

Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Yemen

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 24,407,380	Under 18: 11,586,760
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Under attack from a coalition led by Saudi Arabia attacking Houthi rebels.	
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced	2015: 2.5 million	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 300,000 refugees, 26% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2018: 13 million people at risk of starvation. 2014-2016: 28.8% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2008: State-run homes had a capacity of 1,500. No actual numbers for children in residential homes given.	
Number of Institutions	2008: 31 (some of these were day centres).	A comparison of the number of state- and NGO-run orphanages in 2005-2007 showed an increase of 200%.
State-run/Privately Run	2008: 10 state-run, 18 NGO-run and 3 run in partnership between both.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	There were no accurate official statistics on the number of NGO-sponsored orphans in family foster care, although the available information indicated that they were about 40,000.	NGO-sponsored orphans in family foster care: NGOs provided a monthly allowance to cover the living costs of orphans being cared for in foster families, incl. food, health, and education expenses.
Children in Group Homes	For child refugees and asylum seekers a community-driven approach was used, with small-group alternative care homes.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah	Family foster care (Kafalah) was provided for orphans and was the ideal system in cases where the orphan had relatives or a family with whom he or she lived.	
Children Adopted	Islamic law does not allow adoption.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free at all stages.
Healthcare	Medicine is free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Assistive devices provided.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 500.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2007: The govt. supported programmes to integrate 801 children with disabilities in mainstream public schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Most of the information found is from before the war broke out. In 2018 lack of food and disease was causing a lot of loss of life, particularly among children.

Australia and Oceania

Australia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 23,342,550	Under 18: 5,344,830
Number of Orphans	2016: 80,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 37,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Indonesia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 2.8% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: 46,500 children in 'out-of-home care'. 80.5% of children in out-of-home care were in care for more than a year already. 2015: 93.6% of children in 'out-of-home care' were in home-based care: 48.6% of them in kinship care, 38.7% in foster care, 4.8% in third-party parental care and 14% in other home-based care.	2015: Aboriginal and Torres Strait children represented 5.5% of the total child population, while they represented 36.2% of all children placed in out-of-home care. If a child from these communities really could not stay safely in their family, the preferred order was that a child was placed 1) with carers within the family/kinship network 2) with non-related carers in the child's community, and 3) with carers in another indigenous community. The child could only be placed with a non-indigenous caregiver if there were no other options and if the connection with the child's family, community, and cultural identity could be maintained, however in practice this principle was not always applied correctly.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Mostly abuse or neglect by their family. There were indigenous residential care facilities.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 6.4% of children in 'out-of-home care' were in residential care or group home care. There was a great variation of the percentage of children in residential care in different states and territories, ranging from 3-14.8%.	2003: Aboriginal children represented 237 per 10,000 while non-Aboriginal children represented 37 per 10,000 in orphanages.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2016: Most residential institutions were run by NGOs, many states had only 1, or even no, state-run residential institution.	
Conditions in Institutions	2016: Various scandals of unsafe conditions in 'resis' (residential facilities) came out, ranging from paedophiles having been employed in them, to inability to monitor teenagers and stop them being groomed for prostitution or disappearing for days on end, to staff unequipped and untrained to keep a volatile mix of out of control teenagers in check. A report about 21 resis in 1 state claimed that not only were children not being protected against sexual abuse, but opportunities were being created for sexual abuse and exploitation. With upcoming audits, the situation would suddenly be made to look perfect. 2015: A survey found that 90.6% of children in 'out-of-home care' felt safe and settled in their current placement. A problem was that many children had experienced various placement changes.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only in Queensland was it prohibited in all settings, in some other states in residential care settings and in schools.	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	There was such a thing as grandparent/relative care.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2012: Domestic adoption was not used. To adopt an Australian child at least 1 of the adopters must be Australian, or a permanent resident.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some of the organisations running residential facilities were for-profit and because they were limited companies, they had no obligation to publish their profits. Allegations were made that they 'run a very lean business', incl. underpaying staff, until they got caught. 2018: Legislation was passed that recognises the trafficking of children into orphanages as modern slavery.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Kinship carers and foster carers have access to a Foster Child Health Care Card, this provides subsidised medication and medical consultations, and may entitle the cardholder to concessions on dental care, and hearing, optical, and ambulance services.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	2012: The additional cost of disability borne by families ranged from 29-37% of income.
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2009: Children with disabilities were not excluded from the free and compulsory primary education through provision of inclusive education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Cook Islands

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 20,630	Under 18: 7,470
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Not included in the 2017 country classification.	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	A temporary care arrangement could be made that placed a child in care for a period not exceeding 3 months. At the end of the temporary care arrangement a *uipaanga kopu tangata* had to be convened. This was a meeting about a child to give the relevant *uipaanga kopu tangata* participants an opportunity to determine whether a child was in need of care and protection, to make the *kaveinga a te kopu tangata* specifying agreed arrangements for the care and protection of the child, and if a *kaveinga a te kopu tangata* was already in force in relation to the child, to review the *kaveinga*. Community constables, along with youth officers carried out monthly home visits to youth at risk, incl. those that had been identified to be victims of abuse.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	
Children in Institutions	2010: There was no residential childcare.
Number of Institutions	NA
State-run/Privately Run	NA
Conditions in Institutions	NA
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	Most children at risk or those who had been abused were taken into care by relatives or immediate family members under the supervision of the court. The social structure of the family and the role of the extended family network were valued in Cook Islands communities. Generally, the extended family provided a social network for the welfare of its members and played a key role in keeping together its members. This social structure had resulted in a practice whereby

	children were 'fed' by close family or relatives. *Tamariki angai* or literally translated a 'feeding child' was a child brought up by someone who was not the biological parent, although in almost all cases was related to the child. Such children were not legally adopted.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	The parents of the child had the right to decide who would adopt their child. In the case of a single mother, she would make the final decision. By law (stemming from 1915) a native couple could not adopt a European (meaning non-indigenous) child in the Cook Islands because of their racial origin. Adoption of Cook Islands children by Cook Islands Maori parents had to be registered in the Land Court. Legal adoptions of children by Cook Islanders residing in New Zealand or other countries carried no weight in the Land Court and as such the adopted children had no rights to succession to land in the Cook Islands. Succession to land might be restricted if there was no blood connection or might be granted if there was no objection by the other landowners.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2010: The situation of a European man or woman solely adopting a child needed to be addressed. It was of concern that some adoptions might be illegal. Adoption legislation was being re-examined in order to close the loopholes that facilitate these adoptions. Of particular concern was evidence that some children were being sent overseas outside of existing intercountry protocols.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Primary school is free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Delivering equitable health services to all islands was a challenge given the dispersed nature of islands and the small populations on most islands. Primary healthcare was provided on the majority of islands (except Rarotonga and Aitutaki) by qualified nurse practitioners, working closely with specialised doctors on Rarotonga, using communication technologies. Children with disabilities from the outer islands were usually transferred to Rarotonga at the govt.'s expense for consultations.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes, for children with disabilities Child Benefits are paid until 16 instead of until 12 years old.
Disability Allowance	2010: The only formal type of assistance children with disabilities received from govt. was the destitute and infirm benefit.
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	Anecdotal evidence suggested that these children were not being given the proper care and support either by families or govt. officials. In the Outer Islands, there was evidence that some children (usually exceptional cases) lived in substandard houses.

Children with Disabilities	2017: 100 children living with disabilities registered.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2017: Inclusive Education Teacher Aide support was provided for children who required additional assistance such as those living with disability.
Provision of Community Support	Mostly provided by NGOs.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Fiji

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 881,070	Under 18: 300,850
Number of Orphans	2016: 23,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	1,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Child trafficking was an issue, from 2009 more effort was put into combating it, the first case brought before the court was in 2011.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Street children, particularly in urban areas of Fiji, were an increasing issue.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Parents splitting up, step-parents, and violence in the home were common reasons for a child to live on the streets.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 148 children were placed in institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2011: 12	
State-run/Privately Run	2010: 7 state-run and 5 privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2011: A foster care kinship program was being developed by the govt.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	The majority of child abuse victims either remained with their immediate families or lived with relatives. Informal adoption arrangements within extended families were still practiced in Fiji. Children who were adopted via an informal arrangement were not guaranteed the same protection as those children adopted officially.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 243 domestic adoptions. 2000 (last year for which data is given): 1 intercountry adoption.	In cases where a child could not be placed locally, overseas adoption placements were considered. The govt. was formally talking with Australia and New Zealand to engage in intercountry adoption arrangements.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not signed. Started enforcing in 2012.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Some voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Tuition fee assistance is provided for the years that education is compulsory. Free textbooks for all primary schools. Bus Fare Transport Subsidy is being provided for the schoolchildren. Despite the assistance given, the cost of education could still form a barrier for many children.
Healthcare	Free, except for certain services, such as oral health.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2013: 3.5% of children with disabilities were not living with their families.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2014: Efforts were made for inclusive education, however having a limited number of specialised teachers in mainstream schools was a challenge.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Kiribati

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 102,350	Under 18: 39,440
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.3% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	'Poverty' taken as generally understood meaning (i.e. starvation and destitution), rarely occurred. Some 80% of households led what was essentially a subsistence lifestyle, and the support of the extended family and community acted as a significant safety net in times of hardship.	
Environment/Climate	The 33 islands are under threat from rising sea levels, threatening to engulf them. Fresh water sources are under threat as well. In 2015 sea levels were rising at a rate of 3.9mm per year. The majority of facilities in Kiribati of importance to children – incl. their homes, health facilities, and schools – were close to the coast, making them particularly vulnerable.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2006: There was no formal alternative care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	NA	
Children in Institutions	2006: There was no residential childcare.	
Number of Institutions	NA	
State-run/Privately Run	NA	
Conditions in Institutions	NA	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	NA	
Children in Group Homes	NA	
Children under Guardianship	NA	
Children in Informal Care	The strength of the extended family in Kiribati meant that requests for direct assistance arose only rarely. This help from extended family might involve the informal placement of a child with other members of the extended family.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2004-2006: 3 intercountry adoptions.	2006: No data on adoption of I-Kiribati children by I-Kiribati people, because it was done informally, but it was a widespread practice.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and junior secondary education is free, and it is subsidised at senior secondary level.
Healthcare	Free, incl. medication.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	No
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2006: 1 special education school for 60 students, aged 4-26 years old (52 were over 18 years old).
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	1 rehabilitation centre.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Marshall Islands

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 52,630	Under 18: 18,740
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: There were no social workers and no formal child welfare or foster care system.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: A challenge in the rural outer islands was that some children lived too far from their schools, making the daily commute very difficult and impossible in some cases. There were 2 boarding schools that served outer island students. Attending these boarding schools meant moving away from family and attending schools with limited facilities.
Children in Institutions	2016: There was no residential childcare.
Number of Institutions	NA
State-run/Privately Run	NA
Conditions in Institutions	NA
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	NA
Children in Group Homes	NA
Children under Guardianship	NA
Children in Informal Care	2016: Increasing migration overseas of young parents, primarily to the USA, with plans to send for children afterward, which sometimes never happened. Children were left behind with relatives and grandparents, sometimes with limited means. The Marshallese traditional method of the extended family looking out for each other and caring for children and even sharing of food and necessities amongst family members helped keep children safe from harm and reduced the situation of neglect and poverty. The shift from communal self-sufficiency society to monetised economy with many families struggling and barely able to provide for their own families led to the erosion of the traditional extended family support. In customary adoptions, traditionally, family members adopted children as a response to the adoptive parents' need for labour or care, or to solidify family relationships, or to ensure the rights of inheritance.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2017: There were 76 customary adoptions and 8 legal adoptions. 2016: 13 intercountry adoptions.
	The law required the authorities to have a conference with the (extended) family of the child to explore solutions to the child's situation, intercountry adoption was prevented in 70-80% of cases through family conferences. Open adoption (with continued contact with birth parents) was encouraged for both domestic and intercountry adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	The 'humanitarian aid' contributions required for adoptions raised suspicions of trafficking before 2002.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2013: Collection of school fees was suspended in public schools.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	No
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2017: While improvements were made, there was still much to be done to combat the discrimination and social stigmas attached to people, especially children, with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2012: 727 students with Individualised Education Plans were overseen by the govt.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2012: 670 (95.4%) of students with disabilities were provided with free appropriate public education in regular classes; 80% or more each day.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 103,550	Under 18: 44,220
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 2,000	
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2016: 5 cases of child trafficking were investigated.	
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Given the structure of extended families, there were virtually no children deprived of a family environment. The govt. had not yet addressed the question of how children might be affected by the potential breakdown in the traditional support system.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care		
Children in Institutions	2017: There were no childcare institutions.	2017: There were houses run by NGOs that assisted children who were involved in abusive situations in their homes or children in human trafficking. It was not clear whether this involved residential care for children separated from their mothers.
Number of Institutions	NA	
State-run/Privately Run	NA	
Conditions in Institutions	NA	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2016: There was no foster care system.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	The nurturing of children into adulthood was a shared responsibility involving all members of the extended family. These traditional values and social systems were deteriorating as the country moved away from a subsistence economy to a cash-based economy. The law recognised that a child could be adopted according to local custom.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	No child 12 years or older could be adopted without the child's consent. Courts also sanction customary adoption. Intercountry adoption was extremely rare.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory from age 6-14.
Healthcare	About 25% of children is covered by health insurance. Each state has 1 public hospital that provides primary and secondary care services. In the outer islands and remote villages, state-run health dispensaries or clinics are staffed by health assistants and supervised by the local mayors. These dispensaries provide primary healthcare services and refer advance cases to the state hospitals. Overall, adequate health services are difficult to organise due to the extremely dispersed population, and often involve transport by air or boat, as well as lack of appropriate human resource.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes. The remoteness and widespread populations of the outer islands of Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei make it difficult to extend and supervise such services outside of the urban centres. In some cases, the churches step in to provide counselling to families.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2015: All 4 states had special education programs for students living with a disability. The remaining gaps in the system for delivering services to children with special needs were due to a critical shortage of appropriately trained professionals and to transportation problems. 2012: The Special Education Program catered for nearly 1,900 children (3-21 years).
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Nauru

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,050	Under 18: 3,580
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 4,000	
Refugees in 2015	2016: Hosted 154 refugee children and 39 asylum seeking children, 28 of them were unaccompanied minors.	Among children in the regional processing facilities for asylum seekers established by Australia in Nauru, there were reports of self-harm and 59 reports of assault targeting children documented over a period of roughly 2 years.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: There was no formal alternative care.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	NA
Children in Institutions	2016: No institutional childcare.
Number of Institutions	NA
State-run/Privately Run	NA
Conditions in Institutions	NA
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	NA
Children in Group Homes	NA
Children under Guardianship	NA
Children in Informal Care	2016: Informal kinship care, which was part of the culture's tradition was the only available alternative for children deprived of parental care.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2016: The Committee expressed concern at the lack of information available on the scope of registration and intervention mechanisms available in relation to the formal adoption system.

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory for ages 4-18. Plus, free transport and free lunch.
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2015: Disability was not considered a part of Nauru society's duties but, was rather seen as a family responsibility.
Children with Disabilities	2015: It was believed that there were more children with disabilities that were unreported.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2015: 42 students, with ages ranging from 4 to 34, attended classes at the Able Disabled Centre. The Centre had a lack of resources and some of the people working there were unqualified in specific areas of children's special needs. The curriculum was not useful for children who were deaf, blind, or autistic.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

New Zealand

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,505,760	Under 18: 1,093,660
Number of Orphans	2016: 36,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 379 refugee or asylum seeker children in reception centres.	
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from the Philippines.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2018: Nearly 25% of children born in 1998 were reported to child welfare agencies. By the age of 17 3% had been taken into foster or alternative care. 2015: 4,163 children in out-of-home care.	2017: 60% of children in state care were Maori.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Disability, neglect, and abuse. 2016: Only children with severe behavioural problems, with complex care needs, or with a juvenile sentence were placed in institutional care, others were placed in family-based care.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 29 children lived in residential care. 122 children with disabilities were in residential care.	2016: Residential care appeared to mainly consist of small group home set-ups.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2015: About 12% of children in out-of-home care was cared for by NGOs, no specification of what type of care.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care		
Children in Group Homes	2015: 133 children lived in small group homes.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Where possible, children were placed in the permanent care of extended family members.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2015: 146	Both in intercountry and domestic adoption the adoptive parents, the birth parents and the child were encouraged to understand that 'open adoption' (with continued contact between all parties) was in the child's best interest. Only in rare circumstances would children in care be adopted by permanent carers, as adoption severs the legal relationship between child, birth parent(s), and birth families.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1999.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had offices in New Zealand for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free up to age 19.
Healthcare	Community and primary health services are free for children under age 6.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2013: 131,000 children with a disability.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	Only 0.4% of children were in education settings separate from regular schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Niue

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,340	Under 18: 490
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Not included in the World Bank's classification.	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2010: There were no policies for child protection, either family-based or institutional, as this was considered not to be required.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	
Children in Institutions	2010: No institutional childcare.
Number of Institutions	NA
State-run/Privately Run	NA
Conditions in Institutions	NA
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	NA
Children in Group Homes	NA
Children under Guardianship	NA
Children in Informal Care	Responsibilities were often shared, and children might spend time with sisters, cousins, grandparents, and others in the community. When a parent did not perform their duties there was no shortage of people to support the child or children. There were instances in Niue where children lived with their grandparents or were brought from other countries such as Tuvalu to live with extended family. Niueans recognised customary adoption (*tamataute*), which occurs when a child was living with a family as their child, but this was not formally registered. There was no data on how many traditional adoptions were in place.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	The adoption laws provided for different kinds of adoptions and could involve adoption by close relatives, step-parents and adults who were unrelated to the child. If above the age of 12 years, the child's consent to the adoption was mandatory. Adoption cases in Niue were held in public, as there were often objections to adoption because of the enormous implications of family rights to land.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free, also eligible for free healthcare in New Zealand.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2010: Some students were identified to have learning disabilities, such as d yslexia. However, there was no specialist assistance currently available for these children. There were no children with physical disabilities in Niue. This might be because people with physical disability required off-island care.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2010: Did not exist.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010: 2 students with serious intellectual disabilities, 1 in primary school and 1 in high school. Each student moved with her class each year but due to lack of specialist assistance might not be included in lessons.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Palau

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 20,920	Under 18: 7,450
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: During the 1st month, if it was not safe for a child to stay with the family, the child would be admitted at the hospital as a patient. However, once the child was cleared from the hospital, the govt. took it upon them to look for alternative ways to provide for the child victims.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Neglect, abuse, or sexual abuse.
Children in Institutions	2016: No institutional childcare.
Number of Institutions	NA
State-run/Privately Run	NA
Conditions in Institutions	NA
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2016: There was no foster care system. The need to establish this was acknowledged, but lack of funds acted as a barrier.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	In the event that a child needed to be separated from their parents, extended family of that child was expected to provide for the child until the case was resolved. However, extended families were sometimes refusing to take in the child victims and they were left in the care of the Program Manager of the Victims of Crime Assistance Program.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2016: Adoption took 3 forms: Tradition/customary, usually took place within families or between kin and later might be formalised through the court. If the child was over 12 years at the time of adoption, they could consent to the adoption. Adoption, initiated through legal process of Palauan citizens; Adoption of non-Palauan citizen, i.e., whose parents were both of non-Palauan descent.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Prenatal and postnatal care are free.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2016: Laws and policies were in place for rights of children with disabilities in education, but this did not reflect what went on in schools most of the time. A well-defined and structured process between agencies for better collaboration and on-going support to children with disabilities and their families was needed.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2016: 106 students received special education services.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Samoa

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 190,370	Under 18: 84,270
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.2% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	2016: The effects of climate change, natural disasters, erosion of land, and destruction of plantations, already impacted people's livelihoods.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Sexual and/or physical violence, abandonment, and disability. Needing care for shorter periods of time whilst their families re-established themselves, and readied themselves for caretaking responsibilities again.
Children in Institutions	2015: 90
Number of Institutions	2015: 4
State-run/Privately Run	2015: All 4 were NGO-run.
Conditions in Institutions	2015: The number of children housed in each of the 4 residential care facilities ranged from 8-44.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	Before the systems for formal adoptions came into place, it was very natural to have children cared for by their extended relations, aunties, uncles, and grand-parents. This cultural practice continued with families migrating overseas and adopting their relatives' children.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2012-2013: 790, 95% of adoption requests were filed by Samoan parents, either living in Samoa or overseas. The adoption of children to their own relatives residing overseas was considered a natural trend that has been part of the Samoan extended family care system for years. 2011: When someone from overseas wanted to adopt a child, but was no blood relative, there was an investigation as to whether there was no other alternative in the community.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education and years 9-11 of secondary school are free.
Healthcare	Primary healthcare is free for children under age 3.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2011: While it was acknowledged that Samoa's commitment to incorporating disability issues into national and sector plans was clear, actions to move this commitment forward were limited. Samoa's relatively new entry on the disability scene required some major mind shifts through awareness raising both within and outside of the govt.
Children with Disabilities	2010: 1,371
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2015: 181 students with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Solomon Islands

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 561,230	Under 18: 262,330
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 13.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	The govt. offered basic support services that did not reach all provinces due to limited resources. Legislation and policy dealing with separation of children from their parents under various circumstances and alternative care available were extremely limited.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Domestic violence and abuse.	
Children in Institutions		
Number of Institutions	2017: 1 institution, only for short-term stay (2 weeks).	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: The church provided the safe house for victims of violence.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 5,042	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	There was a high rate of customary adoption through extended family. Adopted children often had lesser status than other children and were at risk of being neglected or exploited, resulting in reduced access to education and other services.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2016: 6 domestic adoptions and 2 intercountry adoptions.	The adoption legislation only addressed formal adoptions, which excludes customary adoptions. The child's wishes had to be taken into consideration.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Subsidised by the state. Challenges to children's education included: access to education, availability of teachers and other resources, equitable and effective delivery of services by govt. institutions.
Healthcare	Free through the hospitals.
Poverty Relief	No
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Additional Comments

With regards to disability, plans rather than statistics or the current situation were described in reports.

Tonga

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 105,320	Under 18: 46,050
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2018: Tonga did not have any state orphanages or foster homes for the care of children deprived of their family environment through the death of their parents.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2018: Neglect, abuse, or absence of parents – due to migration or death.
Children in Institutions	
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2018: A number of formal childcare services were recently established by private individuals.
Conditions in Institutions	Of concern was the reported placement of children into the mental health unit when they were displaying difficult behavioural problems at home and/or school and the parents felt that they could not control or handle the child.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	Applicants for adoption of a legitimate child were issued an order of guardianship. This was to preserve the 'legitimate' right that the child holds in situations of land inheritance.
Children in Informal Care	The extended Tongan family traditionally ensured that children were not deprived of a family environment. However, the traditional Tongan family was undergoing gradual change, and the extended safety net previously offered by the family particularly where family groups lived together within a particular village was being dissipated by migration and the creation of urban suburbs in Tonga where neighbours had no familiar or traditional link to each other. A customary adoption might occur even though the agreement was not in writing, it could be inferred from discussions or conduct and a parent of the child had a continuing relationship with the child. Most adoptions in Tonga occurred through customary practices. It was often not until the parents of a child adopted through these

	means wanted to establish inheritance or migration rights for their child that a formal process of legalising the adoption would occur.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Legislation provided only for the legal adoption of an illegitimate child of which applicants were issued an order of adoption. The court had to ascertain the wishes of the child, if the child was able to express them.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	State primary schools do not charge fees.
Healthcare	Mainly financed by the govt. 2006: 36% of children with disabilities needed access to medical advice. Of these children 64% had never received medical advice regarding their disability.
Poverty Relief	No, the family unit provides support.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2018: People and children with disabilities in Tonga were among the poorest of the poor and were often living in vulnerable situations due to being excluded from education, employment, and healthcare systems.
Children with Disabilities	2006: 374 children with disabilities identified, but this was considered to be a very conservative estimate.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Progress on disability inclusion was hindered by financial constraint, lack of expertise, and lack of priority.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Inclusive education was piloted in 2013 to provide access for children who suffer from some kind of disability.
Provision of Community Support	Provided by NGOs.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Tuvalu

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 9,880	Under 18: 3,580
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	2015: The country was increasingly affected by climate change, incl. saltwater flooding, coastal erosion, and worsening agricultural conditions. Emigration rates were high as a result. Sea levels were rising at a rate of 5.6mm per year.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2012: There were no formal alternative forms of care, such as institutional or foster care, for children in need of protection.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	
Children in Institutions	2012: No institutional childcare.
Number of Institutions	NA
State-run/Privately Run	NA
Conditions in Institutions	NA
Corporal Punishment	2018: Not prohibited
Children in Foster Care	NA
Children in Group Homes	NA
Children under Guardianship	NA
Children in Informal Care	In Tuvalu culture, the extended family cared for the child when the parents could not. Therefore, there were no homeless children. Also, traditional adoptions of children were common especially on occasions where there were too many small children in a family, and it was also a way of bringing the ties closer between couples or close friends.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2012: Children who had attained the age of 12 could not be adopted. Children who were 10 or 11 could only be adopted with their consent, except in extenuating circumstances. Adoptions under the Native Lands Act had no age restrictions. The law allowed for the annulment of adoption when the child was not dutiful. The adoption process, which was primarily interfamily adoption, did not include an assessment of the child's interests. Tuvalu had no experience with anonymous intercountry or local adoption by people unknown to the community. Although the law allowed for such adoptions, there was no procedure by which a stranger could apply to adopt a child.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary schools do not charge a fee. Help with the costs of uniforms, books and school supplies.
Healthcare	Free. The Tuvalu Medical Treatment Scheme meets the costs for referral of patients for treatment on Funafuti and out of Tuvalu.
Poverty Relief	No
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2012: There was no right to be free from discrimination on the basis of disability. Children with disabilities were recently identified as a disadvantaged and vulnerable population. Children with disabilities in Tuvalu, though cared for, were not actively participating in community life.
Children with Disabilities	There was no formal infrastructure for children with disabilities, and a lack of data available regarding the numbers of children with disabilities and their needs.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	In Funafuti, a few children with physical disabilities attended the govt. primary school and were integrated into the regular school program. No transportation was provided, so only children who were able to get to school were eligible. 2017: To date the Fusi Alofa School had 1 full-time teacher assisted by 4 volunteers, all of whom were qualified local teachers. The school had 14 pupils who actually came in for classes, 8 had classes in their homes (home visits) and 16 were in the adult learning classes.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Vanuatu

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 252,760	Under 18: 109,810
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 6.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate	2016: A UN study named the nation the most at-risk country in the world. The 83 islands lie in the middle of hurricane alley, and they dot the border of 'the ring of fire', a belt around the Pacific prone to earthquakes and volcano eruptions.	
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: No existing social welfare services for children in Vanuatu.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2003: Abandonment of children happened increasingly with the unravelling of the traditional social structures.
Children in Institutions	NA
Number of Institutions	NA
State-run/Privately Run	NA
Conditions in Institutions	NA
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	NA
Children in Group Homes	NA
Children under Guardianship	NA
Children in Informal Care	2016: In the absence of formal alternative care, the focus was on strengthening informal care.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	There was no existing legislation which specifically referred to adoption, whether intercountry or domestic adoption.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2018: Not signed
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	NA
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	NA

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is gradually made free.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

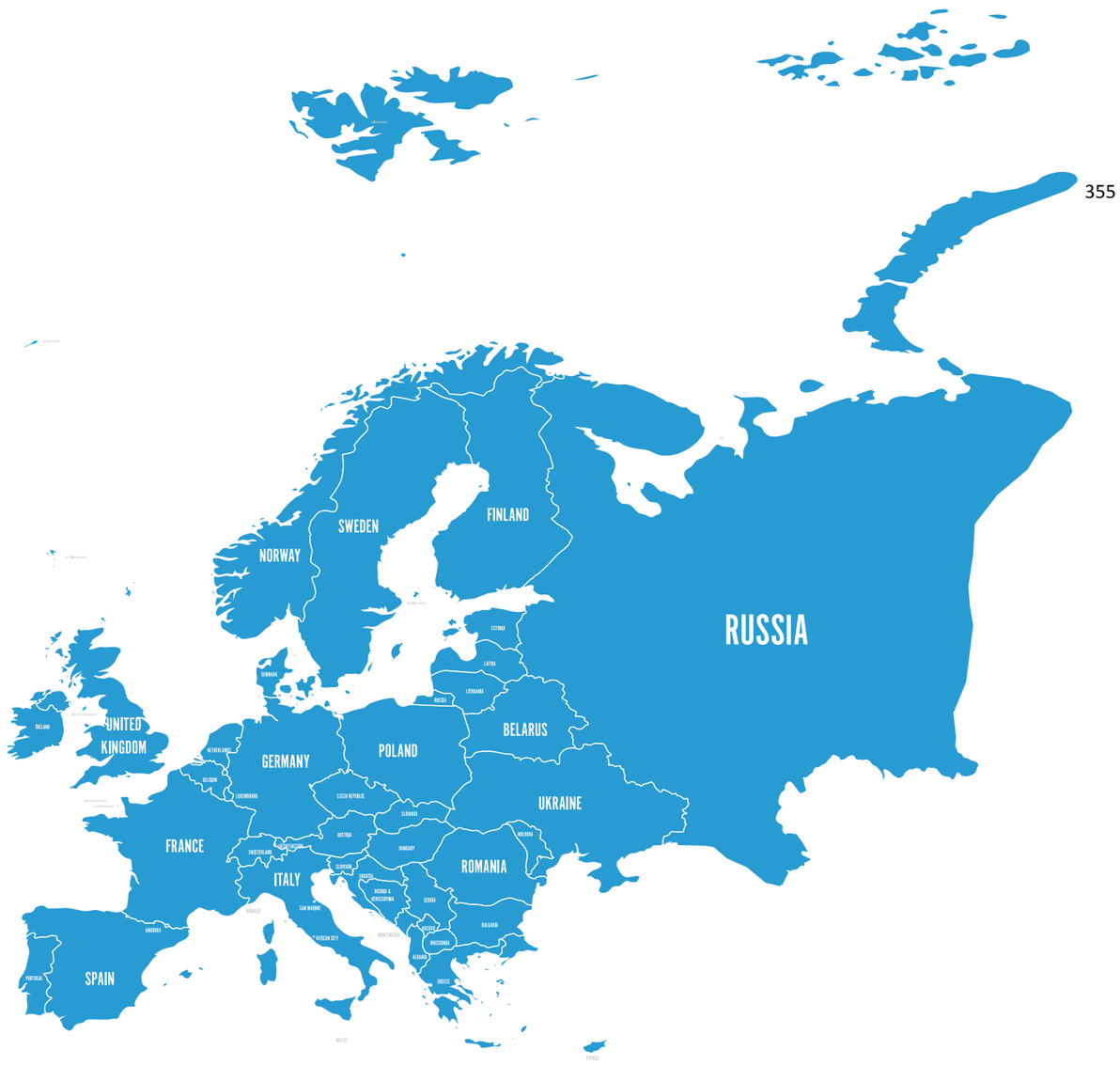
Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

With regards to disability, descriptions of plans, rather than statistics and information on the current state of affairs are available.

Europe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MACEDONIA
ANDORRA
ALBANIA
VATICAN CITY
GREECE
SPAIN
PORTUGAL
MALTA
CYPRUS

Albania

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,173,270	Under 18: 833,360
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	10,000 people left the country as refugees.	
Child Trafficking	2012: Trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour, and begging within the country and abroad. Forced labour and sale of children was not criminalised by law.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 10% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: Poverty, lack of appropriate support for the family, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2013: Estimated 760.	
Number of Institutions	2013: 28	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2012: Institutions were organised by age groups, which resulted in frequent moves of children, the disruption of their relations with staff and children, and the separation from their own siblings. Children had to leave institutions at the age of 15 years, were left with no support and lived in poverty, were marginalised and exposed to abuse and exploitation. There was insufficient staff to care for children in institutions and a lack of training. In recent years, many studies indicated the relatively high acceptance of violence against children in the family, school, or in residential institutions.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2009-2010: Foster care was initially piloted in the 2 largest cities. In the pilot phase 80 children in need were placed in foster families.	Albania had no tradition of fostering and the language did not have a word for it. Kinship care was accepted but fostering by non-related families was problematic. Also fostering being a judicial, rather than an administrative process was prohibitive.
Children in Group Homes	2010: 6 family-type homes were established for 54 children with disabilities. 13 NGOs were licensed to provide family-type care for 3-6 children of up to 15 years old per home.	

Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2005: 16,000 children were in kinship care.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 29 domestic adoptions and 28 intercountry adoptions.	The main purpose of adoption was to offer the child permanent placement with a family. Only when this arrangement was not possible within the country, did intercountry adoption become an option.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing it in 2001.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2008: The aim to establish family-based alternative care and move towards DI was adopted.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Education of children with special needs in the public institutions is free.
Healthcare	Primary healthcare is free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities were sometimes hidden away from the world.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010: 21 kindergartens and 25 schools offered integrated services for children with disabilities. The govt. made efforts to increase awareness of teachers and principals to accept children with disabilities in normal classes. However, schools lacked the necessary infrastructure, and teachers lacked the skills to deal with such students.
Provision of Community Support	Yes. However, services aimed at the rehabilitation of people with disabilities were insufficient and short-term in character. NGOs tried to provide rehabilitation services, as well as to introduce new types of services. Despite efforts made, the services available were fragmented and not integrated.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Andorra

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 79,220	Under 18: 14,190
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2011: 37 children were placed in family-based care, 70% of them with extended family.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Domestic abuse.
Children in Institutions	2016: 23 minors lived in shelters designated for them. 2012: 1 child lived in an institution for people with disabilities who could not live at home.
Number of Institutions	2011: 1
State-run/Privately Run	2011: The 1 residential care centre was state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	2011: The regulations specifically stated that disciplinary measures could never involve corporal punishment, deprivation of rest, assistance, or medical treatment, verbal abuse, prohibiting the child from leaving the home or having family visits, or relate to food.
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	The foster care system was put in place in 1991 and revised after 2004.
Children in Group Homes	
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1997.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	

Children Reunited with Family	2011: The aim was always to reintegrate the child into their family.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory from age 6-16.
Healthcare	90% of cost is covered through Social Security Insurance for mothers and children, with additional support if the remaining 10% is beyond what the patient can afford.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes. Free public transport for people with disabilities and exemption from paying for electricity and phone services. Subsidies for services for people with disabilities when they cannot afford to pay for them.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Accessibility, entry into the workforce and suitably adapted public transport still remained below desired levels.
Children with Disabilities	2011: 145 children were registered as having a disability, of whom 99.3% lived with their families.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	100% of children with disabilities of ages of compulsory school attendance, were in school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	1 separate school for children with disabilities. 2012: 11 children went to special schools (1 went to school abroad).
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010-2012: 133 children with disabilities went to mainstream schools. Inclusive education meant that even students with severe disabilities spent at least 50% of their time in school in the regular classroom, while if necessary there would be specialised classrooms in the school where the student could spend up to 50% of their time for special education.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Austria

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 8,495,150	Under 18: 1,509,540
Number of Orphans	2016: 28,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 72,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Indonesia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2014: Out of 10,810 children in care, about 60% were in residential care and 40% were in foster care. 2011: 112 children with disabilities were in out-of-home care with foster parents or close relatives.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches to allow parents to safely and anonymously abandon their child. Most of the unaccompanied migrant and refugee children were placed in state-run reception centres. Estimated to be 8,000-10,000 children. Since 1999 reasons for entering care were no longer collected. In 1999 they were: child raising difficulties, poverty, divorce/separation, illness or death of the caregiver, challenging behaviour of the child, alcohol or substance abuse by the caregiver or by the child, physical or sexual abuse, homelessness, and disability.
Children in Institutions	2014: 6,159
Number of Institutions	2014: 600 (small group homes).
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	The max. capacity of children per residential facility was 8 children, except for the province of Burgenland where the max. number of children was 12. There was compulsory continuing education for caregivers in the institutions. When cases of violence against children in institutions became known in 2010, both the federal govt. and the Länder responded.
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2014: 4,651
Children in Group Homes	2014: 6,159 children growing up in 600 small group homes.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Since 2010 children had an independent right of consent.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had an office for fundraising in Austria.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The process towards transforming institutional care towards family-based care started in the 1980s and was almost complete.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free. Monthly child allowance in September is doubled, to help cover the costs of going back to school.
Healthcare	Children are included in health insurance without additional payment up to the age of 18, 99% of the population has health insurance.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes. Also covers travel cost of the person accompanying the child with disabilities, if they cannot afford it. Provides a nursing allowance for the care of a child with disabilities over 3 in the home.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	About 50% of all pupils with SEN were taught in integrated classes at regular schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Belarus

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 9,356,680	Under 18: 1,716,040
Number of Orphans	2016: 150,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 2,000 refugees.	4,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2012: 23,955 children living without parental care. Belarus took a more family-centred approach to alternative care than most former Soviet states.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: Poverty, disability and alcohol dependency of the parents led to neglect and abandonment.
Children in Institutions	2011: 7,340 children lived in public residential institutions.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2011: All state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	2005: Average number of children per institution was 76-183.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.
Children in Foster Care	2011: 6,995
Children in Group Homes	2011: 10,164
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2014: 218
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing it in 2003.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2007: There was a de facto moratorium on intercountry adoption.
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	

Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012-2016: Plan for DI was developed, incl. the DI of children with disabilities, this was challenging however, because of the continued belief that the state was better equipped to cater for special needs.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Subsidies for technical means of rehabilitation and personal care for families of children with disabilities.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	The health systems sometimes lay the ground for discrimination against people with disabilities, pressure was often placed on parents to relinquish a baby with disabilities. Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities were sometimes hidden away from the world.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Belgium

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 11,104,480	Under 18: 2,251,700
Number of Orphans	2016: 47,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 35,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Divided up into the French speaking, Flemish and German speaking communities, with no centralised data on institutional care, and difficulties in political cooperation.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches to allow parents to abandon their child safely and anonymously. 92% of children in institutional care in Flanders had disabilities. In Wallonia: challenging behaviour, parents' difficulties taking up the parental role, personal difficulties of the parents, relational problems of the adults in the family, abuse, and poverty.	
Children in Institutions	2013-2014: 13,500	
Number of Institutions	2016: 3 new institutions were opened and/or have been extended to accommodate the arrival of an influx of unaccompanied and refugee children.	
State-run/Privately Run	For their residential facilities, the Flemish public youth protection institutions worked together with teams from private facilities.	
Conditions in Institutions	Stable employment of professionals working within institutions was a priority with the state.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in institutions in the Flemish community.	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 9,697 children in both foster and kinship care in Belgium, in Flanders kinship to foster care is 60%-40% and in Wallonia 75%-25%.	In Flanders there were different types of foster care: short-term emergency care, limited care in support of fragile family circumstances, more intensive care intended to lead to a return home and to more stable long-term placement.
Children in Group Homes	2014: There were 43 small group homes in Wallonia and 8 in Flanders.	
Children under Guardianship	Children without parental care or unaccompanied minors were assigned a guardian to look after their welfare.	
Children in Informal Care		

Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2009: At least 75% of adoption was intercountry. Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, incl. information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had an office in Belgium for fundraising.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Officially it is free, and compulsory, however in practice there may be fees.
Healthcare	Larger reimbursements for healthcare for insured persons under an income threshold. Affiliated dentists offer basic care free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes, and payable according to income.

Disability

Attitude	Children with disabilities were most discriminated against.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	In comparison with other European countries, Belgium had a relatively high number of pupils with SEN and opted more often for special education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013-2014: 36,106
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013-2014: 2,020
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,829,310	Under 18: 769,250
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced	2015: 98,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 7,000 refugees, 18% of whom were children.	19,000 people left the country as refugees, 7% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.4% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2007: 3,296 children were in family-based formal care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Disability and abuse.	
Children in Institutions	2014: 1,302 children without disabilities. 2/3 of children in institutions had a disability.	Many children with disabilities lived in specialised institutions for adults with disabilities.
Number of Institutions	2014: 16	
State-run/Privately Run	2010: Social Welfare centres were all state-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2015: A recent rulebook for standards of care limited the capacity of institutions to 40 children and gave institutions until 2018 to comply. 2005: Average number of children per institution was 91-148.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in part of the country.	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 831	
Children in Group Homes	2015: 2 small group homes in the country, 1 was run by an NGO. Capacity of small group homes was limited to 8 children.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2014: No records for adoption.	By law the adopter could also be a foreign citizen, if the adoption was in the best interest of the child and if the child could not be adopted within the country.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	2014: Not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2014: Started developing DI strategies and action plans.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	2008-2009: Free textbooks, for all pupils from first to fourth grade, and for socially endangered groups such as Roma, pupils from families of 3 or more children, from fifth to eighth grade.
Healthcare	Children do not have to pay a prescription charge for healthcare.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes. 2012: The additional cost of disability borne by families was 14% of income.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	The health systems sometimes lay the ground for discrimination against people with disability, pressure was often placed on parents to relinquish a baby. Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities were sometimes hidden away from the world.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Statistics were provided for some cantonments, not necessarily in comparable ways, but they showed a trend towards inclusive education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Many schools took measures to remove barriers so that children with learning disabilities had the opportunity to attend regular classes.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Bulgaria

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 7,222,940	Under 18: 1,184,040
Number of Orphans	2016: 94,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 17,000 refugees.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.4% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	Poorest country in the EU. 2012: 28.4% of children lived in poverty and 51.5% (609,000 children) were at significant risk of becoming poor or socially excluded.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Politically unstable, 5 govts. between 2010-2015, no unrest.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Social reasons 43.5%, poverty 39.5%, illness of the child 7%, child abandonment 6.5%, and disability 2.4%. 2001: 60-80% of children in orphanages were Roma, while Roma people represented 4% of the total population. Hospital staff was often prejudiced against families at risk and ethnic minority families.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 3,113 (down from 6,730 in 2009).	
Number of Institutions	2016: 47	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2015: In the small group homes the staff was untrained, unsupervised, and badly remunerated, and 'small' group homes held up to 15 children and young people each, jeopardizing quality of care. 2010: An investigation found that malnutrition, starvation, treatable infections, pneumonia, accidents, and neglect were the cause of death of 238 children with disabilities who lived in state institutions, over half of these children were never admitted to hospital and died in the institution.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 2,323	Young children aged 0-3 were the ones most often placed in foster care.
Children in Group Homes	2015: 2,383 children were placed in 253 small group homes.	The capacity of the family-type placement centres was 6 to 15 children. Small group homes were seen as a permanent alternative to big institutions, rather than a temporary measure.
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	2015: 6,463 children in kinship care.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 708 domestic adoptions and 85 intercountry adoptions.	2014: The process of adoption was not a state priority and it was complicated, confusing, and not coordinated among numerous agencies. There were no measures in place to prevent adoption breakdown and no data was collected on adoption results.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 2002.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Various voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The aim was to close all institutions (incl. classical boarding-type institutions) by 2025. In 2015 alone 1,226 children left institutional care and 33 institutions were closed.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	All children under 18, and over 18 if they are still in secondary education, are health insured by the state.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	2016: Community services started to be developed. 2013: A pilot programme of having gate keepers at maternity wards and hospitals to prevent the abandonment of babies was successful in reducing the number of babies admitted to institutions for children aged 0-3 by 76% and it looks like the majority of these babies remained with their families.

Disability

Attitude	There was a medical approach to people with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: 3,887 students. Special education schools tended to be boarding schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2014: 14,967 children with SEN received inclusive education (though a lot of SEN came from social or psychological problems, rather than from medical reasons).
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Croatia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,289,710	Under 18: 785,930
Number of Orphans	2016: 44,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees	33,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.7% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: 2,722 children were living in family-based care, making up 49% of the children in care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Poverty, family breakdown, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 2,873	
Number of Institutions	2015: 67	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	Ratio of children and professionals: 2.6:1 in state children's homes, 2.4:1 in non-state children's homes, and 3.3:1 in homes for children with behavioural disorders.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2009: 1,955 children were placed in foster care. 2014-2015: 90 family homes were established.	A 'family home' was a foster care setting for a larger number of children with obligatory employment of the professional caregiver. 2013: In the continental part of the country foster care was well developed, along the coast it was not.
Children in Group Homes	2008: The educational groups were formed for 8 to 10 children.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2005: 123 domestic adoptions and 9 intercountry adoptions.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified. Started enforcing in 2014.	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	2007: 66% of children leaving institutions did so to be reunited with their biological family.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2015: Children aged 0-7 were still living in institutions, despite attempts at DI and a slight decrease in numbers, the main problem was lack of alternatives. The number of children aged below 3 years placed in homes decreased by 19%.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free in state schools. Pupil transportation and free textbooks are provided.
Healthcare	All children up to age 18 have health insurance and children do not have to make a contribution to pay of care.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes, plus an added allowance for care and assistance where relevant.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2015: 897 children with disabilities grew up in 30 institutions, while only 4 children with disabilities were placed in family homes and 52 children with disabilities were living in organised housing. The health systems sometimes lay the ground for discrimination against people with disabilities, pressure was often placed on parents to relinquish a baby. Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities were sometimes hidden away from the world.
Children with Disabilities	2010: 33,331
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2009-2010: 16,778 pupils in primary education.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009-2010: 2,893 pupils in special primary schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2009-2010: 13,885 pupils in integrated primary schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Cyprus

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,141,170	Under 18: 239,870
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced	2015: 272,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 7,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	2010: 2 recorded incidences of child trafficking, both girls from Cameroon.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 4.7% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Domestic violence, abandonment, neglect, exposure to physical and other dangers, parents were imprisoned, or children identified as unaccompanied minors.	
Children in Institutions	2011: 65	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2006: A study of institutional care gave an overall average rating of 7 out of 10.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 192	2007: Financial assistance to foster families was increased by 4.9%.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	The development of new forms of family-type care included actions to strengthen the involvement of the extended family.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2009: Intercountry adoptions became the norm since there were hardly any children available for adoption in Cyprus. Children originated mainly from Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Thailand.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	9 years of education are free and compulsory.
Healthcare	1994: 80% of the population is eligible for free healthcare. People with disabilities are eligible for free healthcare and rehabilitation.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes. Home care by a private home carer is paid for, for quadriplegic and paraplegic people.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Free and compulsory, also for children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2007-2008: 5.36% of pupils in special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2007-2008: 94.64% of pupils in mainstream schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

All the information found concerns the Greek part of Cyprus.

Czech Republic

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 10,702,200	Under 18: 1,875,460
Number of Orphans	2016: 92,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 4,000 refugees.	1,000 people left the country as refugees, 2% of whom were children.
Child Trafficking	2010: 9 recorded cases of child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.9% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	No unrest, but some political instability, 5 govts. between 2008-2014.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: The country had the second highest number of children openly abandoned: 4.1 per 1,000 live births. Baby hatches were available to safely and anonymously abandon babies. Roma children were overrepresented in residential care. Also, disability.	
Children in Institutions	2013: 8,428 (down from 10,388 in 2008). 2006: 13,145 children with disabilities lived in residential care with paid staff and more than 16 children.	
Number of Institutions	2009: 34 homes for children up to 3 years old.	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	Relatively high quality, with money invested in improving institutions, creating better physical conditions, smaller numbers per institution, and better trained staff, however outcomes remained the same. 2011: 72% of runaway cases were disappearances from institutions.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in institutions and schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2013: 8,606	
Children in Group Homes	2006: 1,270	Group homes had paid staff and fewer than 15 children.
Children under Guardianship	2008: 2,514 children in the personal care of a guardian.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Children had the right to participate in the adoption procedures (give consent or not) without specifying any age.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 2000.	

Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	2009: 55% of children released from institutions returned to their own families.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Over the years, the attitude of society to the education of children with disabilities went from complete refusal, a long period of segregation in special educational facilities often of an institutional character, up to the integration with healthy children/adolescents of the same age.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2010-2011: 16,420 children with disabilities in primary schools were in special classes and 877 were in mainstream classes.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Denmark

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 5,619,100	Under 18: 1,198,300
Number of Orphans	2016: 51,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 27,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.8% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2010: 12,565 children were looked after. 40% of looked after children was in residential care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2007: Behavioural problems of the child, abuse and neglect, and physical disability and health of caregivers.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 6,340 children lived in residential care (group homes).	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2007: 3,591 children lived in public residential homes and 2,749 lived in private residential homes.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 6,372, of whom 248 were in foster care with their own family.	2012: Almost half of teenagers in foster care experienced disruption of placement.
Children in Group Homes	2007: Public residential homes had a size of approximately 12 children, private residential homes had a size of approximately 6 -7 children.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: Families that took in a child from their network or extended family were guaranteed additional support from the municipality. The aim was to enhance the possibility of the child being placed in a family that was familiar to the child.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Domestic adoption was very rare (outside of partner adoption). 2009: 8 domestic adoptions.	To adopt Danish children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection. Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, this included information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Mostly free.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	The municipality covers any necessary extra costs of care in the child's home related to disabilities or chronic or long-term illness. Incl. reimbursing loss of earnings of parents taking care of the child.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013-2014: 94.8% of children with disabilities attended regular classes.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Estonia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 1,287,250	Under 18: 241,430
Number of Orphans	2016: 19,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2017: The Committee was concerned about the lack of efficient mechanisms to prevent the sale and trafficking of children.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.3% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: 4,186, of whom 1,486 children in family-based care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Disability, a lack of available support in the community. Lack of residence, abuse and neglect, alcohol and drug abuse.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 1,068 children in residential care settings (incl. small group homes). 430 children with disabilities lived in residential care.	
Number of Institutions	2015: 38 (incl. small group homes)	2004: A start was made transforming large institutions into small units of no more than 8 children, this was expected to be achieved by 2017.
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	Small group homes were not providing quality care, because they were poorly equipped, staff was not trained, and they were regarded as replacements of the old large institutions.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 205 children were placed in foster care families.	The foster care system was under-developed, and social workers lacked knowledge to be able to provide proper support.
Children in Group Homes	2009: 76 were living in SOS Children's Village families, or similar.	Small group homes had up to 8 children in them.
Children under Guardianship	2006: 242 children were placed under guardianship.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	2006: 158, 57 domestic adoptions and 20 intercountry adoptions (abroad).	1/3 of adoptions was from a welfare institution.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2002.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Meals are provided in preschools.
Healthcare	Free for children up to age 18 and people taking care of children under 3 and of children with disabilities.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes. Public transport is free for children with disabilities.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2015: 12,028
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2002: The options existed of attending mainstream schools with adjusted curriculum if needed, attending special classes in mainstream schools, attending a combination of mainstream schools and special schools, and attending special schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes, made a start in 2015.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Finland

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 5,426,320	Under 18: 1,077,660
Number of Orphans	2016: 45,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 13,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	2006: 5 cases of child trafficking were reported.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Single parent families represented about 20% of all families with children, and there were about 160,000 children living in single parent households.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2007: 16,059 children were placed in extrafamilial care, of whom 50% was placed in residential care. More children were placed in child welfare institutions than in ordinary foster families.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2007: Substance abuse, mental health problems of the caregiver (often the mother), neglect, abuse, exhaustion of parents, accumulating social problems, and problems bringing up a child and relating appropriately to surrounding environment. Also, being Roma.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 8,095 (incl. small group homes).	There was an organisation specialised in care for Roma children.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2007: The max. number of children in a residential home was 20, with no more than 7 per unit. Min. number of paid care staff was 7 per unit or if there were several units in 1 residential home 6 per unit.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 5,526 children were placed in foster care.	
Children in Group Homes	2007: 2,676 were placed in professional foster homes, SOS Children's Villages, or similar.	The law required that substitute care was given primarily in small and family-like units, incl. foster care in families or professional family homes.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Traditionally, the grandparents or other relatives of a Roma child took care of the child if the parents were not able to do so. This tradition was losing its significance, and the need for child welfare services in respect of Roma children had increased, as had the number of those having been taken into care.	

Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Basic education is free.
Healthcare	Patients only pay about 10% of the cost.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Discrimination of people with disabilities was general and wide-scale. People with disabilities encountered difficulties in being employed, and those who had found work often experienced discrimination. The law defined disability as a condition between the limitations of an individual and the environment: the better the needs of people with disabilities were observed in the planning of buildings, transportation, aids and services, the smaller the handicap caused by the disability.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Education was compulsory for all children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Services provided for people with disabilities varied considerably from 1 region to another, which placed children with disabilities in an unequal position according to the municipality in which they lived.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

France

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 64,291,280	Under 18: 14,057,590
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the French army and Corsican separatists.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 273,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	2008: 4 convictions for child trafficking, none in the following 2 years.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.5% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2014: 273 unaccompanied minors made initial asylum claims.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2013: 288,300, 47.5% of them received help in their family home.	New project kept the child in their normal environment, but stepped up the intervention of the educational team at the parents' family home in order to rebuild, with the parents, their parenting responsibilities. This arrangement was an alternative to placing children in a home or with a foster family, it struck a balance between child protection and intensive support for parenting, by avoiding the trauma of separation and the risk of parental apathy.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: 1 child out of 1,000 live births was left in the maternity unit. Social isolation was increasingly a problem.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 39% of looked after children was in residential care. 2006: 106,642 children in residential care had disabilities.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2015: Apparently all institutions were either state-run or state-supported.	
Conditions in Institutions	2003: Institutions for children under 3 years old were inadequate: ancient rooms, inadequate or even lack of bathrooms.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2012: 69,000 children were looked after by 40,000 foster carers.	There were special forms of foster care for 'babies born in secret', where the foster family was both in charge of caring for the infant and for preparing them for adoption and providing guidance in the adoption process.
Children in Group Homes	2008: 600 children lived in SOS Children's Villages.	

Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Finding a solution within the wider family was the preferred option.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 1,995 intercountry adoptions. 90% of adoptions were overseas.	Domestic adoptions were becoming increasingly open, with ties to the biological family not irreversibly cut.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2012: 32% of intercountry adoptions by French people were done independently, through direct contact between birth parents and adoptive parents, with non-Hague treaty countries. Around 2007 the 'Arche de Noé' incident took place, in which an illegal attempt was made to remove 103 children from Chad for adoption in France.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had their offices in France for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family	2003: A sustained effort to reunite children under 3 years old with their families.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Free up to 6 years old.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	For families with at least 2 children.
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2018: People with autistic spectrum disorders were still often going undiagnosed or admitted to psychiatric institutions. The treatment of choice was still post-Freudian psychoanalysis, and parents were threatened with having their children removed if they fought this approach.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	According to legislation the school system was inclusive, however the practice varied. Only 20% of autistic children were in school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2011: Medico-social and healthcare establishments were educating 78,000 children.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2011: 214,600 students with disabilities were enrolled in mainstream schools.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Germany

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 82,726,630	Under 18: 13,288,130
Number of Orphans	2016: 380,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 316,000 refugees, 21% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Indonesia, Thailand, and Georgia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2013: About 2.65 million children lived partly or permanently with at least 1 alcohol dependent parent and 40,000 children had a parent who was drug-dependent or had another addiction. 2012: 284,000 people were homeless, 11% of them were under 18 years old.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2010-2012: 44% of children in alternative care were in foster care and 56% were in residential care.	The child and youth service system featured 3 categories: community-based, in-home family support services, day groups for children who return to their parents' home for the night, and alternative care, such as residential and foster care. 'Flexible' meant that young people and their families did not have to adjust to the various types of intervention but instead, the intervention had to adjust to the needs of children and their families.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches, allowing parents to abandon babies safely and anonymously. Neglect, lack of sufficient care and support, threat to child welfare, limited parenting competence, parental issues impacting on child's well-being, family conflicts, antisocial behaviour, developmental disorders/mental health issues, problems in the school or workplace. 2007: 58% of children in residential care came from parents on benefits and 72.6% of children in foster care came from parents on benefits.	
Children in Institutions	2010: 93,785 children lived in residential care.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2013: Care facilities were usually run by not-for-profit organisations.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	

Children in Foster Care	2011: 69,113 children were in full-time foster care.	The concept of parent model residential groups, where a couple (1 of them being a professional) raised a group of children, showed that the lines between residential and foster care were blurry.
Children in Group Homes	2007: 15,995 were in small group homes of less than 15 children.	Residential group care featured various group home settings such as therapeutic intensive residential groups, parent model residential groups (usually staff-supported), Children's Villages, as well as supervised individual residences for older youth and young adults.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2008: 4,201	Adoption by relatives and step-parents was the most common form. 1 adoption in 2 falls in this category.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale institutions in various developing countries had offices in Germany for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	All children are covered by Social Security Insurance, even if their parents are not insured.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2012-2013: 495,000 students were found to have SEN.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2011: 377,922 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2011: 121,999 students.

Provision of Community Support	Yes. There were 'semi-institutionalised' services available, where children with disabilities spent part of their day in the institutions, but lived at home with their parents.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Greece

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 11,127,990	Under 18: 1,950,010
Number of Orphans	2016: 73,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and rebel groups.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 30,000 refugees. When the 'Balkan Route' closed in March 2016, thousands of refugees were stranded in the country.	
Child Trafficking	A destination country for human trafficking from Georgia. In 2009 there were reception centres for children who were victims of trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 2.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Deep economic crisis. 2016: 27,500 refugee and migrant children stranded in Greece, according to UNICEF only 1/3 of unaccompanied children was staying in formal shelters.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2014: There was no official database with information about children in alternative care. 2003: The ratio residential to foster care was 4:1.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Babies were abandoned by single parents or immigrant parents and ill babies were abandoned by vulnerable parents. Lack of support services left parents with few alternatives. Poverty, disability, neglect, and abuse.
Children in Institutions	2014: 2,825 children with or without and adults with disabilities living in institutions.
Number of Institutions	2014: 85 (incl. 14 institutions for both adults and children with disabilities).
State-run/Privately Run	Institutions appeared to be mostly run by NGOs and faith-based organisations, though there were some public institutions.
Conditions in Institutions	Children and adults with disabilities were sometimes kept in the same institutions, sometimes tied up in cages or beds. Little or no quality control or monitoring. State institutions tended to be large in 2003.

Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 309 children were placed in foster care families.	Due to lack of funding and support young adults with disabilities who grew up in foster families were re-institutionalised.
Children in Group Homes	SOS Children's Villages was active in the country.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	To adopt Greek children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection or in the case of health problems of a child living in an institution.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	An extended programme of DI for the unprotected children encouraged use of adoption and the development of foster families.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Free for poor, uninsured people. ART is provided free.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes, for parents with many children.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Some

Disability

Attitude	The medical model was used to care for people with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Almost 75% of special education school units were integrated in mainstream schools.
Provision of Community Support	Rehabilitative and therapeutic services were not offered a lot.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Hungary

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 9,954,940	Under 18: 1,768,680
Number of Orphans	2016: 130,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 4,000 refugees.	1,000 people left the country as refugees.
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.2% experienced food insecurity. 2015: 130,000 (44% under the age of 7) lived in material deprivation, 608,000 were threatened by poverty and 50,000-60,000 children regularly went hungry.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2013: 18,674	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Poverty, addiction, abuse and neglect, behavioural problems, and lack of community-based prevention and early intervention services. There was residential care for underage mothers who had a child or were pregnant, rate of teenage pregnancy was still high. Roma children were overrepresented. Child Saver Incubators were available in 29 locations where babies could safely be abandoned, leaving a baby in 1 of those was considered consent for adoption.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 8,098. There were still 3 institutions for children aged 0-6 years, housing 289 children. 2012: More than 1,900 children with disabilities living in children's homes.	Children's homes were being transformed into low-capacity child communities with a cosy atmosphere of home.
Number of Institutions	2015: 67	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	Staff of small group homes were not adequately qualified, trained, or supervised, burn-out rate was very high, and staff fluctuated. Children's complex needs could not be met. Children running away, and violence and substance abuse were widespread. There were still old large-capacity (400-450 beds), but overcrowded, institutions with obsolete material conditions and an obsolete environment.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 14,486 children, in 5,460 foster families.	Children under 12 years old could only be placed in foster families, not in institutions. A special professional foster parent could only take care of up to 3 children – or up to 7 chronically ill, children with disabilities, or children less than 3 years of age.
Children in Group Homes	2015: 200 small group homes of 10-14 children. 2007: 3,777 children in small group homes.	Because of their remote location (because property was cheaper there) there was no proper transportation, nor access to basic services, adequate educational and out-of-school facilities.
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	Kinship care was not supported properly.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2012: About 700 annual adoptions, an average of 130 were intercountry adoptions.	Taking a child abroad for adoption was possible only when domestic adoption of the child was unsuccessful, a significant ratio of children taken abroad for adoption was of school age or suffering from a long-term illness.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 2005.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family	2014: Reunification of children in foster care was not part of the focus.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	For the last 30 years DI has been part of child policy, in that time there were significant developments, but there was still a lot to be done. The govt. announced the closure of all large institutions by 2020.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education is free. Free textbooks for children with disabilities.
Healthcare	Free maternity care and healthcare for children with disabilities.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Depending on the extent of disabilities, 1 student was considered as 2 or 3 students, so the number of students in their classes did not exceed a max. of 7 to 15.
Enrolled in Special Schools	

Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Iceland

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 329,540	Under 18: 81,680
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2006: 3,656 child protection cases.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2006: Behaviour problems, alcohol and substance abuse, learning difficulties, and vagrancy. 1/3 of children in care had single parents. Children with severe disabilities might live in small group homes.
Children in Institutions	2006: 48 children were placed in residential care homes.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2009: Small group homes were state-run.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2006: 343: 194 in permanent foster care, 138 in temporary foster care, and 11 in supported foster care.
Children in Group Homes	2009: 2 0 children, mainly adolescents aged 12-17 years, lived in small group homes.

Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	1990-2007: 808, 375 step adoptions, 433 primary adoptions, of which 309 were international.	To adopt a child the prospective parents had to be residents or 'have a special connection with the country'. More than 60% of step adopted individuals were adults.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2000.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	At minimal cost. Free dental care for low-income families.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2005: 5,371 children with a disability, chronic illness, or impairment who received disability benefits.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2008: 2 special schools, attended by 123 children. Some parents preferred these in the latter years of primary school.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2009: Children with developmental disorders generally attended regular schools, at least during the first years in school, whatever the disability was.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Ireland

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 4,627,170	Under 18: 1,175,420
Number of Orphans	2016: 39,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 6,000 refugees, 11% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 3.9% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2014: 6,504 children were in care.	2016: A 56% increase in cases of child abandonment, neglect, and cruelty.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2016: Serious abuse or neglect, homelessness, challenging behaviour, parental substance abuse, or parental disability. 2005: 43% of children in care came from single parent families.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 363 (5% of children in care) children were in residential care.	Under 13s were only allowed to be placed in residential care in extreme circumstances as an interim measure while foster care was arranged.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	Residential care could be state-run, or run by a voluntary or private company, though the latter were a minority.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 2,812 general foster carers, 1,128 relative foster carers, and 154 private foster carers.	
Children in Group Homes	The only type of residential care available was the 'family-type' in a small residential home with paid staff and 15 or fewer children. In practice residential homes had a max. of 6 children, usually 4.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	If children were unable to stay with their parents, social services would first look into the possibility of kinship care, if that was not an option foster care was the next step.	
Children in Kafalah		

Children Adopted	2014: 34 intercountry adoptions, from abroad, 111 domestic adoptions (73 by a step-parent).	Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, this included information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had their offices in Ireland for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free up to the age of 18.
Healthcare	Free for free medical card holders, such as people with disabilities, this covers about 35% of the population. For the rest of the population there are certain charges that need to be paid, though not full cost.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes. 2012: The additional cost of disability borne by families ranged from 20-37%.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	2011: 154,059
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2013: 818 children with disabilities did not attend any school.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013: 5,167 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013: 3,345 students.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Italy

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 60,990,280	Under 18: 10,307,570
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and anarchist groups.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 118,000 refugees. From 1 January to 31 August 2014, 112,689 migrants arrived in Italy by sea. 17,982 of them were children and 9,963 were unaccompanied.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2013: 1.43% of children suffered from health poverty meaning they did not have access to treatment and medication (probably as a result of the economic crisis). 2014-2016: 1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2011: 6,500 young mothers aged 18-19 and just over 2,000 young mothers under 18 years old.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2014: The allocation of social protection funding for children was among the lowest in Europe.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches to allow parents to abandon babies safely and anonymously. Inadequacy of parenting skills and relationship problems in the family 45.5%, parents' addiction problems 21.9%, and poverty 6%.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 15,600 children in residential care.	2013: 48% of Italian children placed in alternative care were placed in residential facilities, while for unaccompanied foreign children the number was 85%. 82% of 14- to 17-year olds placed in residential care and only 18% in foster care, while 73% of children aged 0-2 were in foster care and 27% in residential care.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited in all settings but the home.	
Children in Foster Care	2007: 16,800	Despite the increase, foster care was still poorly developed.
Children in Group Homes	Community residential services had become the norm: a house or apartment where a group of teenagers and children, no more than 7 or 8 (usually 4-5), lived together with some adults.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	To adopt Italian children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had offices in Italy for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	From January 2008 all 'institutions', large residential facilities housing more than 12 children, were closed.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory. .
Healthcare	Free up to age 10.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes, for those requiring therapeutic treatment or special education.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Parents with children with serious disabilities benefitted from special work leave.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Schools were required to have 1 specialised teacher per 138 children (with or without disability) to enable inclusive education. Since the number of teachers was not connected to the number of children with special needs present, it was not always going to be sufficient.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Latvia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,050,320	Under 18: 359,780
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.6% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: 2,909 children were growing up in families where the development and upbringing of the child was not sufficiently guaranteed.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches to allow parents to safely and anonymously abandon their baby. Poverty and lack of quality social services to prevent family breakdown, disability, HIV infection, challenging behaviour, family breakdown, and parental addiction.
Children in Institutions	2014: 1,551 children were placed in institutions. 410 children with disabilities were living in long-term social care institutions.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2007: Orphanages and larger institutions did not provide children-friendly environments and did not promote development, as too many children lived there (from 50 to 100), and different placement levels contributed to the creation of an antisocial environment. Some institutions lacked basics like heating, regular nutrition, or proper space for each child due to a lack of financial resources.
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2014: 1,224 children were placed in foster families.
Children in Group Homes	2008: 147 children were cared for in SOS Children's Villages. In the 1990s small residential homes were started, but in 2009 only 3 were left, caring for 31 children.
Children under Guardianship	2007: 6,673 children lived in 'custody families', usually relatives.
Children in Informal Care	Since 2009 measures were being taken to ensure that children left behind when parents went to work abroad were cared for properly, with monitoring of their living situation.
Children in Kafalah	

Children Adopted	2014: 122 domestic adoptions: 50 from institutions, 39 from foster families, and 33 from a guardian's family. 178 intercountry adoptions: 104 from institutions, 74 from foster families.	Payment was given to adoptive parents who adopted domestically.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Tuition fees are covered for children with disabilities. Vocational education is free.
Healthcare	Universal Healthcare Insurance. Medication and medical devices free up to age 18.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2007: Children with disabilities or those with health or behavioural disorders were sometimes placed in specialised orphanages that were not the responsibility of the municipality due to financial reasons rather than a proper assessment of the child's needs.
Children with Disabilities	1998: 8,007
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2014: 263 children with disabilities had been assigned an assistant at school to help with educational, self-care, and social interaction needs.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes, incl. home care.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Liechtenstein

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 36,930	Under 18: 3,950
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2004: 35 persons below age 18 lived separate from their parents.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2005: Inability of the parents to raise children due to mental illness or disability of the parent.	
Children in Institutions	2004: 15 children lived in socio-pedagogical living groups. 6 children with disabilities lived in institutions (abroad).	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2002: 12 children were placed in foster families.	
Children in Group Homes	2004: 15 youths lived in the Living Group for Young People.	
Children under Guardianship	If no person with the right to custody was available, the child was assigned a guardian. The guardian was responsible for the child's care, representing the child in court, and administering the child's assets.	
Children in Informal Care	When the parents were not in a position to provide maintenance, the grandparents were required to assume responsibility for maintenance.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	1998-2002: 12, of which 3 were Liechtenstein citizens and 9 foreigners.	Min. age of consent was 5 years old. After the biological parents had consented to release, a guardianship was established for the child and a foster arrangement with the parents planning to adopt. As soon as a parent-child-like relationship had developed, an adoption agreement was concluded between the adoptive parents and the child's guardian.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2009.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free and compulsory for 9 years. Tax deductions for formal education costs.
Healthcare	Dental care for children is free. Mandatory health insurance covers basic medical costs.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Disability pension only paid to people over 18, but cost of in-home care is covered by insurance.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	1998: People with severe disabilities were as a rule placed in special facilities in neighbouring countries.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	1998: There was 1 special education centre for children who were unable to attend mainstream schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	

Additional Comments

Almost all information is from 2005 and before.

Lithuania

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,016,930	Under 18: 561,770
Number of Orphans	2016: 52,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 2.3% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2008: 12,306 children were deprived of parental care.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches allowing parents to abandon their baby safely and anonymously. 2007: 68 children were found unaccompanied or left in hospitals. Neglect and abuse, restriction of parental rights, being orphaned (or absence of parents in other ways), and disability.
Children in Institutions	2015: 3,276, of whom 359 were less than 3 years old (down from 9,263 in 2007). 2007: 724 children with disabilities were in residential care in homes for people with disabilities.
Number of Institutions	2008: 105
State-run/Privately Run	2008: 83 state-run and 22 privately run.
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2007: 1,309, incl. 651 children living with their grandparents and 427 children living with other relatives.
Children in Group Homes	2007: 90 children lived in SOS Children's Villages. 258 children lived in homes of fewer than 15 children.
Children under Guardianship	2008: 1,216 children were placed under guardianship, most of them with a family member.
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2008: 156 domestic adoptions: 55 children by a step-parent or relatives. 108 intercountry adoptions by foreign nationals abroad, the majority of these children had special needs.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1998.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and basic education is free. Free lunch for children in pre-primary and primary school.
Healthcare	Free for children. Prescription medication and prosthetics are free for children with disabilities.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Disability aids were provided.
Family Support	Some, however, the system to prevent family breakdown remained underdeveloped, despite the importance of developing these services being recognised.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	1996: 11,341
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2006: 13 existing educational institutions, centres and establishments were adapted and supported, these were attended by 661 children with disabilities.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2006: 3 mainstream classes were set up in schools, attended by 60 children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	Yes, some.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Luxembourg

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 530,380	Under 18: 112,810
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 1,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 2% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2008: 1,063 children were deprived of parental care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: Abuse, neglect, disability and disappearance or death of parents, most come from a socio-economic disadvantaged background.	
Children in Institutions	2012: 802 children in residential care, either in Luxembourg or abroad. 2008: 38 children with disabilities lived in specialised residential facilities.	
Number of Institutions	2008: 15 (incl. those for children in conflict with the law).	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	6 full-time positions for every 10 children under the age of 2; 5 full-time positions for every 10 children aged 2 to 12; 4 full-time positions for every 10 children aged 13 to 15; 3 full-time positions for every 10 children aged 15 to 18.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2012: 358	
Children in Group Homes	2008: 68 children lived in SOS Children's Village families.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2009: No domestic adoptions and 33 intercountry adoptions.	Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, this included information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family	2007: 115, after a placement.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free. And free shuttles are available to get to school.
Healthcare	Covered by Health Insurance, or if children are uninsured, by the state.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes. All public transport is free for children.

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	1996: 4 aged 0-24.
Enrolled in School	The child was still included in the learning process, but was given specific support that could take a number of forms. Depending on the needs assessment: special needs education, assistance in the classroom from a member of the interdisciplinary team, or a temporary move to another class, a differentiated education school, or a specialist institute.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,107,160	Under 18: 433,110
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	When the 'Balkan Route' closed in March 2016 thousands of refugees got stranded in the country.	
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2008: 9 cases of trafficking children were recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.9% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2007: 1,126 children were in family-based formal care.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	More than half of children in institutions had a disability.	
Children in Institutions	2007: 871 children were reported to live in institutions (106 of them 0-3 years old).	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2007: All institutions were state-run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2005: The average number of children per institution was 79-184.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2005: 192 foster families registered, caring for 322 children.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	The largest percentage of the children without parents and parental care were given into the custody of or placed with close relatives.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 47 domestic adoptions, there was no record of intercountry adoption after 2004. 2000-2004: 33 intercountry.	Consent for adoption by a foreign citizen could only be issued if the child could not be adopted within the country. Consent of children over 12 was required.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2009.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2008: The program for implementation of DI was conducted in 1 place where 30 children left the institution and were placed in foster care.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Covered by the Health Insurance Fund, for which children below age 18 do not need to pay.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes, depending on income level.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	Children with intellectual disabilities were living in their families, marginalised regarding access to nursery schools, regular schools, and other forms of social life.
Children with Disabilities	2008: 1,600 children with mild and severe intellectual development problems were registered.
Children with HIV/AIDS Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2008-2009: 45 schools with 1,451 students from 1st to 8th grade.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2008-2009: 1,293 children with disabilities attending regular education were registered: 32 in preschool education, 974 in primary education, and 287 in secondary education.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Malta

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 429,000	Under 18: 78,800
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 7,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	Out-of-home care was often a long-term measure, due to lack of resources to support families to take care of their children again.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: Poverty, social exclusion, physical, emotional, sexual, or psychological abuse, serious disease situations (incl. mental ill-health), drug and/or alcohol addiction, domestic violence, separated parents, single parent family, prostitution, abandonment, and imprisonment of parents. Unaccompanied minor refugees were placed in residential settings.
Children in Institutions	2008: 220 children lived in residential homes. 3 children lived in institutions specifically catering to children and adults with disabilities. 2009: 26 unaccompanied immigrant minors resided in 2 residences set up for that purpose.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	2009: 89% of out-of-home care was provided by religious communities falling under the Catholic Church of Malta.
Conditions in Institutions	2010: The programmes aimed to offer a family environment as much as possible. Adult staff members and youngsters shared meal times, leisure activities, meetings, living experiences and domestic chores, within this sharing appropriate modelling modifies behaviour and attitudes.
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	2008: 160, of whom 65 were fostered by their extended family.
Children in Group Homes	2008: Residential homes mostly catered for fewer than 15 children, though there were some homes consisting of bigger complexes broken up into smaller units to provide a family-style environment.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	

Children Adopted	2004: 70 intercountry adoptions from abroad.	To adopt Maltese children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection. Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, incl. information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2005.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes, up to 16 years old, means tested.
Disability Allowance	Yes, means tested. Financial assistance for adaptation work to the house.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Learning support in state mainstream schools was provided by learning support assistants.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Moldova (Republic of)

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 3,487,200	Under 18: 701,010
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Suspected residual landmines.	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2009-2014: 7 victims of child trafficking were repatriated to Moldova. 2010-2012: About 400 children, potential victims of trafficking and exploitation, received emergency assistance and accommodation.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 8.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Chronic political instability (4 changes of govt. in 7 years and a period of civil unrest), poorest country in Europe and severely affected by the global crisis.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: Migrant workers left their children behind in institutions, because the alternative was paying relatives to care for them. 105,270 children were affected by migration. Disability, lack of inclusive education, poverty, single motherhood, abuse, neglect. Roma children were overrepresented among institutionalised children.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 2,214 (down from 11,544 in 2007). 200 children with disabilities in 2 institutions.	
Number of Institutions	2015: 35	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2005: Average number of children per institution: 120-320.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 981	Foster care development was held back by low payment for foster carers, little room to accommodate additional children in small urban flats, worry about the responsibility of caring for a child and a cultural resistance to caring for someone else's child.
Children in Group Homes	2015: 91 children in 12 small group homes	
Children under Guardianship	2014: 7,535	
Children in Informal Care	2013: 91% of children both of whose parents had left for migrant jobs were cared for by their grandparents.	

Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2014: 98
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1998.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Several voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	2007: 42% of children leaving institutions did so to be reunited with their biological family.
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2006-2011: Children in residential care dropped by 50%, the majority of deinstitutionalised children were resident in boarding schools, DI of children under 3 and children with disabilities lagged behind.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	The state covers the compulsory Health Insurance for children and pregnant women, women delivering and in the post-partum period, and mothers of 4 or more children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes, up to 1.5 or 3 years, depending on whether the parents are insured.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	A family member looking after a person with severe disabilities was given the status of employee, so that they could access the social and health insurance system. This prevented the institutionalisation of children with severe disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	2014: 13,446 children were registered as having a disability.
Children with HIV/AIDS	2013: Estimated just under 200.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013-2014: About 3,500 deinstitutionalised children were enrolled in 400 mainstream educational institutions.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Monaco

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 37,830	Under 18: 7,120
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 4,000	
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2010: Abuse and neglect.	
Children in Institutions		
Number of Institutions	2007: 1	
State-run/Privately Run	2007: State-run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2010: Not prohibited by law, but fell under abuse, which was prohibited. 2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2010: Foster care was used, but no statistics were given.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2006-2013: 1 domestic adoption and 20 intercountry adoptions (from abroad).	Simple and full adoption were both used.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 1999.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		

Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education is free.
Healthcare	Free for schoolchildren.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes, in some cases.
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2013: If children with disabilities could not be placed in a regular school environment in Monaco, they were placed in a school in France.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Nursery schoolchildren were provided with special support to meet their individual needs. Primary schoolchildren attended the adaptation and integration section where there were 2 tutors to assist 3 teachers for every 20 students. In secondary school, the children benefitted from special equipment, free transport services, and healthcare assistants.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Montenegro

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 621,380	Under 18: 142,350
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced	2015: 4,000	
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 41,000 refugees, 1% of whom were children.	
Child Trafficking	2017: 2 recorded cases of child trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.8% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2017: Disability	
Children in Institutions	2017: 84 (down from 560 in 2007).	
Number of Institutions	2017: 1	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 373	Foster care was provided as: standard accommodation, accommodation with intensive or additional support, emergency accommodation, temporary accommodation, and other types of accommodation.
Children in Group Homes	The first small community group started operating in 2015, housing 6 children with disabilities.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	Adoption of children from vulnerable groups that were particularly difficult to adopt, incl. siblings, children with disabilities and children belonging to minorities, was happening mainly through intercountry adoption, because most local adopters wanted to adopt a healthy child, of younger age, from their own nationality.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified. Started enforcing in 2012.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	A moratorium on the admission of children to the institution was introduced in 2007. 2017: The transformation of the only remaining residential childcare institution in Montenegro was underway.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free. Scholarships for high school students, Roma students, and Egyptian students.
Healthcare	Free up to age 18.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2010: The campaign 'It's about ability' was launched to improve the way people with disabilities were viewed. A year later 18% more people saw people with disabilities as equal members of society. There was a strong prejudice that children with disabilities should stay inside and not be seen by anyone.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	In regular schools with special classes, joint education of children was conducted with their peers in regular classes, and pupils with disabilities who attended classes in regular classes received the support of a 'defectologist'.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

The Netherlands

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 16,759,230	Under 18: 3,456,910
Number of Orphans	2016: 82,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Indonesia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.4% experienced food insecurity. 2012: 384,000 children lived in poverty, a significant increase, as a result of the economic crisis.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	There was an increase in children being taken abroad, to their family's country of origin, and being abandoned there without a passport. The number had risen from 23 in 2015 to 45 in 2017.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2009: 40,450 children were looked after.	The individual entitlement to forms of youth care has led parents and professional carers to seek solutions to developmental and behavioural problems, beyond their immediate surroundings, sooner than necessary. This exacerbated the sector's heavy workload, bureaucracy, and waiting times.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2010: 118,000 children up to age 18 were exposed to some form of neglect. Also, abuse and serious externalising behaviour problems.	
Children in Institutions	2014: 10,770 children lived in residential care. 2016: 2,233 children were in youth care plus facilities.	Residential youth care in the Netherlands was offered by different types of facilities, ranging from small-scale residential groups in residential neighbourhoods to large residential facilities outside residential neighbourhoods. Overall, there were 4 different types of residential care in the Netherlands: provincial residential youth care, inpatient mental healthcare, residential care for youth with mild mental disabilities, and institution-based correctional services.
Number of Institutions	2014: 14 Youth Care Plus facilities (closed facilities for youth with severe behavioural problems).	
State-run/Privately Run		

Conditions in Institutions	2013: Staff without certified qualifications working in residential care settings had all but completely disappeared.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2017: 23,206 children lived in foster care for a period. 48% of children in foster care lived with people they knew (uncles, aunts, grandparents, but also neighbours or teachers).	There were different kinds of foster care: long-term, crisis (up to 4 weeks), once a week, or during weekends and holidays.
Children in Group Homes	The residential groups often consisted of 6 to 12 children or adolescents. The family homes accommodated on average 3 to 4 children in 'normal' houses in residential areas. Care in these family homes was provided by parents of whom at least 1 was employed by a care provider or by a national franchise organisation.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 36 domestic adoptions, and 684 intercountry adoptions (from abroad).	To adopt Dutch children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection. Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, this included information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2013: When it became known that illegal adoption had taken place, legal action was taken against the adoptive parents. There were several such cases in recent years.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2013: Youth care in the Netherlands was considered to be a market, with a continually growing number of youth care providers who were supposed to operate as market parties. 2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had offices in the Netherlands for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education are free, incl. schoolbooks. Tertiary education is subsidised.
Healthcare	Free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	2013: A study found that over 11% of men and 25% of women with a physical disability had experienced sexual violence in their youth. The figures for people with a visual disability and a hearing impairment were 8% and 3% for men and 17% and 20% for women. In the group of people with intellectual disabilities, about 12% of men and over 25% of women had been subjected to sexual violence in their youth. Parents had to find a school placement themselves, and were often sent from 1 place to another, as schools refused to admit their child with disabilities.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 192
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Children with disabilities who participated in mainstream education were eligible for reimbursement of the costs of necessary services and aids.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Norway

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 5,042,670	Under 18: 1,136,800
Number of Orphans	2016: 35,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.2% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors that arrived in 2015 was much higher than in previous years. Responsibility for the day-to-day care of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors was shared between the child welfare services and the immigration authorities.	

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2015: 53,400 children and young people were the subject of child welfare services measures. 6 out of 10 children receiving assistance in the home while 4 out of 10 were placed outside the home.	Children under 7, who were capable of forming their own opinions, had to be given the chance to express themselves before decisions were made for the child about personal matters.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Abuse and neglect.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 449 children lived in child welfare institutions.	
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2016: Combination of state-run and privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2016: 8,280 children lived in foster homes, 296 in emergency placement homes and 10 teenagers in homes with supervision.	Finding enough suitable foster homes was challenging and this resulted in long waiting times.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2015: 134 intercountry adoptions, there was a decline in recent years. 4 children born in Norway were put up for adoption with the consent of their parents.	

Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Primary and lower secondary education is free.
Healthcare	Hospital treatment is free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes, incl. crisis centres where parents can stay with their children.

Disability	
Attitude	2016: Children with disabilities participated less than other children in various social arenas. Obstacles to participation included a lack of physical accessibility, resources, transport, and information. The obstacles might also be under-estimating someone's ability to cope or competence, and a prejudicial environment. A national survey of deaf adults found that girls were 2 times as likely to suffer sexual abuse and boys 3 times as likely as peers who had no disability.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed

Poland

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 38,216,640	Under 18: 6,960,040
Number of Orphans	2016: 440,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2010: 32 victims of child trafficking were disclosed.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: Disability, addiction of the parents, helplessness in matters of parental care, abandonment (there were baby hatches), domestic violence, disability or severe illness of 1 of the parents, or at least 1 of the parents being abroad.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 50,308, incl. 25,170 children with disabilities. 1,300 children in institutions were under 3 years old.	
Number of Institutions	2015: 592 state-run institutions	Over the past 5 years many large institutions were divided into smaller, semi-autonomous units, but this division did not change the reality of the children's everyday life.
State-run/Privately Run	2015: Almost 2/3 of institutionalised children lived in state-run institutions.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2015: 56,986	The number of foster families decreased because of scandals in the media, lack of support, bureaucratic requirements, and monitoring that was seen as intrusive. Professional special-ist foster families raised children who required special care and nursing or socially maladjusted children.
Children in Group Homes	2008: 440 children living in 4 SOS Children's Villages. 2008: 1,892 children living in 239 Family Children's Homes, housing no more than 4-8 children with 1-2 caregivers.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	2015: 31,951 children in kinship care.	

Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	A child could only qualify for intercountry adoption if no family could be found in Poland.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 1995.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2015: The childcare system was reformed and with EU funding they were working towards DI. The number of small group homes tripled in the last 5 years, with units of no more than 14 children.

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free transport to school is provided for children with disabilities.
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	New family support services were introduced, but they were poorly funded and underdeveloped.

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Children with special needs could attend mainstream schools, inclusive schools, or special schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Portugal

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 10,608,160	Under 18: 1,890,810
Number of Orphans	2016: 58,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 4.1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2014: 8,470	Most of the population in foster care or in institutional care were adolescents.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches so that parents could safely and anonymously abandon their babies. Neglect, abuse, behavioural problems, substance abuse, mental health issues, and disability.	
Children in Institutions	2014: About 92% of children in alternative care were in residential care.	Officially placing children in residential facilities was a last resort, but it was still often the first port of call with out-of-family placements.
Number of Institutions	2007: 328	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 341 (81 less than in 2009)	The number of children in foster care went down because of limited availability of foster families.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 584 domestic adoptions, 12 children entered the country and 7 children left the country through intercountry adoption.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		

Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The objective of the govt. was to lower the number of institutionalised children by 25%.

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Financial support for schoolbooks and supplies for poor children. School milk and school meals subsidised for all and free for the poorest.
Healthcare	Free for children and for women giving birth.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes, means tested.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	There were special schools for children who were unable to enter mainstream education.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Units were integrated in public schools and promoted the participation of students with disabilities or mental health problems in the schools' day-to-day activities through different interventions.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Romania

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 21,698,590	Under 18: 3,941,870
Number of Orphans	2016: 290,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Child trafficking was an issue.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2015: Over 50% of children in Romania suffered from severe deprivation.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Unstable govt., children were the last priority.	

Alternative Care Arrangements		
Children in Alternative Care	2015: 51,021	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Some mothers left healthy babies behind in health institutions because of lack of identity papers, which made birth registration impossible and affected a variety of rights, these parents were often of Roma origin. 2005: 9,000 babies a year were abandoned, a number that has been steady for decades. Poverty, social reasons, and disability. 2000: 40% of children in orphanages were Roma, while Roma people make up less than 10% of the total population.	
Children in Institutions	2018: Fewer than 7,200 (down from 100,000 in 2000). 40% of children in institutions had a disability.	A law banned the placement of children under 2 years old in institutions, however in practice this still happened, and the law explicitly offered an exception for babies with severe disabilities.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2006: 1 private institution for every 4 state-run institutions.	
Conditions in Institutions	For every 2.6 months spent in a Romanian orphanage a child fell behind 1 month of normal growth. Children with disabilities were kept in beds and were restrained and malnourished, with teenagers looking like children of 3-4 years old. Many institutions did not provide adequate clothing, blankets, and heating for children with disabilities. There were often not enough beds for all children. Children were shuffled between institutions.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2012: 30.2% of children in formal alternative care lived in foster care.	
Children in Group Homes	2015: 1,120 small group homes.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		

Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 975 domestic adoptions.	Legal consent for adoption had to be obtained from underage parents over the age of 14. If the parent(s) were under the age of 14 the child could not be adopted.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 1995.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	In 2005 intercountry adoption was banned by law, with the exception of adoption by close relatives. In the 1990s the 'demand' for babies for adoption led to families being approached with 'offers' to adopt their babies or healthy young children. Domestic social protection foundations were set up where adoption agencies were invited to make donations to them. By making these donations they could earn points and when they had a certain number of points, they would be given a child for international adoption.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Parents brought children to an institution temporarily, because they were unable to feed them, and when they returned to collect them, they found them gone. Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2007: 44% of children leaving institutions did so to be reunited with their biological family.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	The govt.'s aim was to close all institutions by 2022.	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Free. School transport is free. School supplies provided to disadvantaged children. Efforts are made to improve enrolment of Roma children and to provide them with education in their own language.
Healthcare	Free for children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes, means tested and can be docked according to school absence.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	There was a lack of community-based services to prevent child abandonment. In 2015 development of community-based services was started.

Disability	
Attitude	The health systems sometimes lay the ground for discrimination against people with disabilities, pressure was often placed on parents to relinquish a baby. Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities were sometimes hidden away from the world.
Children with Disabilities	2000: Around 80,000 children with disabilities benefitted annually from services provided by the state.
Children with HIV/AIDS	1996: 4,599
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2013-2014: 25,540 students.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2013-2014: 1,047 students.
Provision of Community Support	Starting to be developed.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Russian Federation

Country Background		
Population in 2013	Total: 142,833,690	Under 18: 26,569,740
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence	Army clashes with various separatist and Islamist groups.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	Hosted 30,000 refugees.	
Child Trafficking	Children were trafficked from eastern Russia to South Korea. Destination country for human trafficking from Georgia.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements	
Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	6-10% of babies born to HIV+ mothers were abandoned in maternity wards. Deprivation of parental rights was a growing cause of institutionalisation. Also, disability.
Children in Institutions	2014: 23,691 children were placed in residential care, 1,391 entered boarding schools. Over 165,000 children lived in state institutions for children with disabilities.
Number of Institutions	2009: 219 orphanages for children with disabilities.
State-run/Privately Run	Practically all institutions were state-run, few privately run places made it.
Conditions in Institutions	2014: Staff relegated children deemed 'too disabled to learn,' to separate wards where they lay in cribs with little attention except to change their diapers. Members of staff used rags to tie many children to their cribs or other furniture, or sedated children to prevent them from trying to leave their rooms or from knocking their heads against crib railings. Due to a lack of attention, education,

	healthcare and adequate nutrition, children's disabilities grew more pronounced, or children developed new impairments. Violence that children might experience in institutions could lead to severe developmental delays, additional disabilities, and irreversible psychological harm. 2007: Even during the peak socialisation hours of 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., children spent 50%-65% of their time alone. 2005: Average number of children per institution: 57-216. 2000: A study showed that 1 in 3 children who left residential care became homeless, 1 in 5 ended up with a criminal record and 1 in 10 committed suicide.	
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.	
Children in Foster Care	2007-2009: The number of foster families rose from 22,200 to 40,500.	Serious problems persisted, such as rejection by the foster family of children and their return to the children's home, and cases of abuse. 2009: 105 persons were indicted for offences involving children in a foster family, incl. 24 cases for offences which led to the death or injury of a child.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2011: 427,346	The tutor (for children up to age 14) or guardian (for children aged 14-18) had to submit an annual report to the tutorship and guardianship authorities on the protection and use of the child's property.
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 10,816. 2009: 73.2% were adopted by Russian nationals and 26.8% by foreign nationals.	The adoption of children by foreign nationals was permitted only in cases where it was not possible to place these children in the care of families of Russian citizens or for them to be adopted by relatives regardless of citizenship and place of residence.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed, not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2007: 9% of children leaving institutions did so to be reunited with their families.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2012: A study showed that despite attempts at DI, 6,000-8,500 (an average of 3.5-4.5%) of children who were removed from institutional settings were returned to the institutions by foster or adoptive parents. The main reasons for return were difficulties in dealing with psychological and emotional problems of the children and 'wrong motivation' of foster carers, who thought that it would be easy and profitable, lack of ongoing assistance was a problem here.	

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	
Healthcare	Compulsory medical insurance, for children up to age 18 paid by the state. Free prosthetic and orthopaedic devices provided.
Poverty Relief	Subsidies for housing for the poor.
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability	
Attitude	The health systems sometimes lay the ground for discrimination against people with disabilities, pressure was often placed on parents to relinquish a baby. Due to stigma and discrimination people with disabilities were sometimes hidden away from the world.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2010: The HIV prevalence rates of children in residential care were found to be higher than that of children in the general population.
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2009: 207,400 children with various developmental deficiencies were enrolled in 1,800 special educational facilities (schools and boarding schools). There were 1,400 special kindergartens.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2009: 141,300 children with disabilities attended regular classes in mainstream schools, and 130,800 children were enrolled in special classes. 7,500 integrated kindergartens had special groups for children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	Some, though many were connected to boarding schools and institutions.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

San Marino

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 31,450	Under 18: 5,630
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition		
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	
Children in Institutions	Children with disabilities requiring institutional care were sent to Italy, as San Marino only had 1 institution for adults with disabilities.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited
Children in Foster Care	
Children in Group Homes	Family-type homes was the only form of residential care.
Children under Guardianship	
Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	Before adoption was finalised a 1-year pre-adoption order was granted, and the family was monitored to see if the situation was in the child's best interest. The order issued by the foreign authority could not be declared effective for the purposes of adoption without a pre-adoption custody period of at least 1 year. In such case, the 1-year pre-adoption custody order was issued by the San Marino judicial authority to supplement the adoption order of the foreign authority.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Started enforcing in 2005.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Books and materials for primary and secondary school are supplied free.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes, means tested.
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2003: No special schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2003: All children with disabilities attended regular public school but followed an individualised academic programme.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Most of the information stems from 2003 and before, and no statistics were provided in the reporting.

Serbia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 9,510,510	Under 18: 1,893,010
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	Upper middle-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015	When the 'Balkan Route' closed in March 2016 thousands of refugees got stranded in the country.	
Child Trafficking	2015: 24 children were the victim of various forms of trafficking.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 5.6% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.3% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2016: Underage unaccompanied migrants were routinely put in residential institutions, those institutions were required to have a separate unit especially equipped to handle the needs of this group. This placement was temporary, and if the minor requested asylum, they were moved to an asylum centre.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2015: 5,321 children were in family-based care.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2015: Neglect, abuse, and poverty. Children with disabilities disproportionately entered care because they did not have access to education and only some have access to day care centres. Roma children were overrepresented in residential care and in foster families.
Children in Institutions	2014: 839. 564 of them had a disability.
Number of Institutions	
State-run/Privately Run	
Conditions in Institutions	2013-2016: 3 criminal charges were brought to staff of residential centres for children and youth, 2 for sexual abuse and 1 for physical abuse. Medication, incl. psychotropic medications, which were used on children with disabilities in institutions often as a means of dealing with behavioural issues, was dispensed with minimal oversight or review. 2008: In a children's home that was considered the National Centre of Excellence 2 caregivers cared for 16 babies. 'Difficult behaviour' (seeking attention where none was given) was treated with isolating a toddler or tying them to the bed. There was evidence of severe maltreatment of children with disabilities, such as tying them to their crib for years, or malnutrition. The more severe the disability, the worse the treatment. Institutions were often overcrowded (officially the max. number of children in an institution was 50, but the real number exceeded that) and children often grew up together with adults. Half of children without disabilities and almost all with disabilities are excluded from education.
Corporal Punishment	2018: Only prohibited in schools.

Children in Foster Care	2015: 5,324	Only half of the foster families were supervised, so quality of care could not be measured.
Children in Group Homes	Small group homes could house max. 12 children, however in reality they did not function as quality community-based care settings. 5 small group homes were developed for children with disabilities for whom it was impossible to create conditions for returning to their own families. While they were nice looking, they were located in remote places, lacked trained professionals and did not give personalised care, they were in effect mini-institutions.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2015: 138 domestic adoptions and 18 intercountry adoptions.	
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified. Started enforcing in 2014.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption	2015: 1 illegal adoption, in 2014 there were 2.	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Apparent voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2016: As part of the DI process, placements in small residential communities for children and young people with developmental disorders were developed. 2000-2011: The number of children without disabilities in institutional care dropped by 63%, the number of children with disabilities in institutions dropped only by 37%.	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Health insurance is mandatory. Health insurance is covered for children below 7 years old of single parents (means tested) and for Romani people who do not have a residence due to their traditional way of life. Some children belonging to vulnerable groups were still deprived of healthcare for administrative reasons.
Poverty Relief	
Child Allowance	Yes, and parents of children with severe disabilities can get paid leave for 5 years to care for their child.
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	Discrimination against children with disabilities was one of the reasons for them ending up in institutions. Most children with disabilities who were placed in institutions, lived there their whole lives.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2016: Children and young people with disabilities living in institutions had limited access to education and the vast majority of them were not enrolled in schools.

Enrolled in Special Schools	2016: Children with disabilities who did receive education attended specialised schools. 2015: 10 special education schools.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	2016: Available in 65% of municipalities.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Slovakia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 5,450,220	Under 18: 996,670
Number of Orphans	2016: 54,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: 3.1% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2014: 14,050 children lived outside their families, 62.22% of them lived in foster families.	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches where parents could safely and anonymously abandon their baby. 46% of children in care were Roma. Also, poverty. 2008: The highest number of children (aged 0-3) openly abandoned in the EU, 4.9 per 1,000 live births.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 10,996 (incl. those in re-education centres and boarding schools), 4,729 of them in protective/care institutions (these were those placed by court decisions, those voluntarily placed by guardians were not included). 2014: 197 children with disabilities lived in institutions.	2016: Some of the institutions appeared to be divided up into smaller groups.
Number of Institutions	2014: 91	
State-run/Privately Run	2014: 66 state-run and 25 privately run.	

Conditions in Institutions	2014: Registered instances of abuse of children in residential care: 21 physical abuse, 6 psychological abuse, 12 sexual abuse, 1 bullying, and 1 exploitation for commercial purposes (prostitution, pornography).
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in all settings but the home.
Children in Foster Care	2008: 2,672
Children in Group Homes	2008: 598 children lived with 333 professional families in small group homes.
Children under Guardianship	2008: 625
Children in Informal Care	2008: 5,038 children were in kinship care.
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	2014: 7
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 2001.
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: 1 registered case of exploitation for commercial purposes of a child in a residential facility. Few voluntourism opportunities.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	2016: The DI process was embedded in legislation.

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	
Healthcare	Covered by Health Insurance.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes, dependent on school attendance.
Disability Allowance	An allowance for a parent taking care of a child with disabilities full-time, paid up to 7 years. Plus, an addition to regular child allowance.
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	2015: 27,289 children with disabilities went to a special primary schools and 4,669 to a special secondary school.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2015: 33,606 children with disabilities went to regular primary schools, 8,198 to a regular secondary school.
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Slovenia

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 2,072,000	Under 18: 353,730
Number of Orphans	2016: 12,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	A country of origin, destination, and transit for trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The Committee was concerned that incidents involving trafficking of Roma children, in particular girls, were not investigated and victims were neither protected nor compensated.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	The Committee was concerned about the persistent discrimination against Roma children in all stages of their lives, with no effective remedies for acts of discrimination committed by public and private people.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: Disability, behavioural problems, abuse, and neglect.	
Children in Institutions	2003: Estimated 1,977. 1,369 children went through crisis centres, 660 of whom only received day care there.	
Number of Institutions	2008: 31 institutions and 8 crisis centres.	
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2008: 1,153 children in 813 foster families.	Foster care had a long tradition in the country, and it was well organised and monitored.
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2007: 249	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2007: 24	Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, this included information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children. Only full adoption was available.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified. Started enforcing in 2002.	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Scholarships and textbook funds.
Healthcare	Exemption from payment of compulsory health insurance for poor people.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	Pupils with SEN were provided with additional professional assistance and a learning aid intended for easier learning of a subject. Severely physically impaired pupils and students had the possibility to be accompanied by a caregiver during the educational process.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2007-2008: 8,600 pupils with special needs in public primary schools.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Spain

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 46,926,960	Under 18: 8,458,060
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence	Clashes between the army and Basque separatist groups.	
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.1% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Adolescents with behavioural problems and neglect.	
Children in Institutions	2015: 13,596 (incl. in 'therapy centres').	Residential placements could only last 3 months.
Number of Institutions	2014: 1,076	Mostly in community settings.
State-run/Privately Run	2015: The majority of residential care facilities were run by NGOs.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2014: 5,656	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2011: 31,500	
Children in Informal Care	2014: 13,463 children lived in kinship care.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2015: 799 intercountry adoptions (from abroad), down from 5,541 in 2004. 2010: 793 domestic adoptions.	To adopt Spanish children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	2014: 68.3% of intercountry adoptions were conducted with countries signatory to the Hague Convention, and 31.7% with non-signatory countries.
Signs of Illegal Adoption		

Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had offices in Spain for fundraising.
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Compulsory education is free, scholarships beyond that.
Healthcare	
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	

Disability

Attitude	2007: 91% of people with disabilities under the age of 65 lived in the family. 2011: Report on child abuse in the family in Spain found that children and young people with disabilities suffer higher rates of abuse (23.08%) than those with no disabilities (3.87%).
Children with Disabilities	2007: Estimated 195,071 people with disabilities aged 0-19.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2014-2015: 173,797 SEN students with a disability.
Enrolled in Special Schools	2014-2015: 34,349 students with disabilities (19.8%).
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	2014-2015: 134,448 students with disabilities (80.2%).
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Sweden

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 9,571,110	Under 18: 1,928,980
Number of Orphans	2016: 63,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking		
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 0.8% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	2010: 2,393 unaccompanied children sought asylum, 143 more than the previous year, mostly 16- to 17-year-old boys from Somalia and Afghanistan, the majority of them was placed in residential care while waiting for news on their status. Around 400 children and young people were reported to be homeless during 1 week in May 2011.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2008: 1,300 children were placed in alternative care because of their disability. 2003: Children were 12 times more likely to be in an orphanage if they were from a non-Swedish ethnicity. Behavioural problems, substance abuse by the child, abuse, neglect, and mental health issues of the child.	
Children in Institutions	2008: 4,000 children were placed in residential homes.	Residential institutions in the form of small group homes were only used as a temporary measure, with most stays of a few weeks up to 3 months. Residential care could only be used for emergency placements or for children with severe problems.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run		
Conditions in Institutions	2013: Children in these homes did not feel heard by their caregivers and felt there was a lack of caring and emotional support. Rules were rigid and access to things like phones, internet, and friends and family was restricted. Children were not always included in making or made aware of the existence of a care plan.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2008: 11.300 children were placed in foster care.	
Children in Group Homes	2008: The number of children in residential homes was usually 5-8 children.	
Children under Guardianship		

Children in Informal Care	
Children in Kafalah	
Children Adopted	To adopt Swedish children, foreign adopters had to be permanent or legal residents, unless there was a family connection. Implemented a compulsive training programme for adoptive parents, this included information about attachment issues and the background of the adopted children.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified
Signs of Illegal Adoption	
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	
Children Reunited with Family	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation	

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Free, with books and supplies also provided free.
Healthcare	Free for mothers and children.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2012: Children with chronic illnesses and disabilities stated that they were beaten twice as often as children without such problems, while they also more often lived in families where there had been violence between the parents. The Committee expressed concern about increasing suicide rates among people with disabilities, incl. children. They also expressed concern about coercive and involuntary treatment and use of straps, belts, and seclusion in mental healthcare settings. And they stated that some children with disabilities were denied admission to schools.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	
Enrolled in Special Schools	There were primary and secondary schools for students with learning disabilities, and special schools for children who were deaf or blind, had visual or other functional impairments, or had severe speech disorders.
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	Ordinary schools provided education adapted to the special needs and capabilities of children with disabilities.
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Switzerland

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 8,077,830	Under 18: 1,458,360
Number of Orphans		
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	No	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were being trafficked into the country from Thailand.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 1.5% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care		
Reasons for Ending up in Care	2012: There were baby hatches that allowed parents to safely and anonymously abandon their baby. Neglect, abuse, and domestic violence.	
Children in Institutions	2015: Reliable data and information on the situation of children placed in institutional care were lacking.	2015: For children under the age of 3 only institutional care was available.
Number of Institutions		
State-run/Privately Run	2008: A public-private partnership was established.	
Conditions in Institutions		
Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in all settings but the home.	
Children in Foster Care	2015: Reliable data and information on the situation of children placed in foster care were lacking.	
Children in Group Homes		
Children under Guardianship	2005: 23,000 children were under legal guardianship.	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2010: 580, of these, 189 were of Swiss nationality, the others came from abroad. 255 children were adopted by their step-parent.	To adopt Swiss children, foreign adopters had to be 'habitual' residents, unless there was a family connection.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	2014: Large organisations that set up large-scale childcare institutions in various developing countries had offices in Switzerland for fundraising.	
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary education is free.
Healthcare	Premiums on obligatory health insurance have been reduced.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability

Attitude	2015: The Committee expressed concern about discrimination and segregation of children with autism spectrum disorders, especially in the canton of Geneva. And about reports that children with autistic spectrum disorders were subjected to inadequate treatment, such as the 'packing' technique (wrapping the child in cold, wet sheets), which amounts to ill treatment.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2015: The Committee expressed concern about the inadequate inclusion of children with SEN in mainstream education in all cantons, and the insufficient human and financial resources allocated to ensure the adequate functioning of the system of inclusive education in practice.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Not signed

Ukraine

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 45,238,810	Under 18: 7,852,080
Number of Orphans	2016: 810,000	
Income Classification in 2017	Lower middle-income country	
Violence	Self-proclaimed independence of 2 areas led to continued civil war.	
Landmines	Suspected	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	Children were at risk of trafficking for sex, pornography, or sale of organs. Ukraine was a source, transit, and destination country. 2009: 42 cases of child trafficking were recorded.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty		
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues		

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	
Reasons for Ending up in Care	6-10% of babies born to HIV+ mothers were abandoned in maternity wards. Poverty, disability, and abandonment.
Children in Institutions	2014: Estimates of children living in institutions varied between 82,000 and more than 200,000, no one really knew. 2015: 27,142 children with disabilities living in 218 institutions and 13,165 children with chronic diseases in 56 sanatoriums.
Number of Institutions	2015: 663
State-run/Privately Run	2012: CRC report only mentioned state-run institutions, not clear whether there were also privately run ones.
Conditions in Institutions	Children institutionalised in the war-torn area were at particular risk for disappearing from their institution or being abandoned there when staff fled. Children were subjected to forced labour and violence in institutions. Children with disabilities were restrained and neglected. There was little or no oversight or protection for children in institutions. There was a lot of abuse, incl. sexual and if girls became pregnant, they were forced to have abortions, sometimes combined with a sterilisation. Both mechanical and chemical restraints were used for children with disabilities. Only 10% of the annual budget for all institutions was spent on children's actual needs, the rest went to admin expenses, salaries, and maintenance of buildings. There were no permanent relations, no personal space, and no personal care. 1 caregiver was responsible for 38 children. Description of 1 institution in 2004 was felt to be regular occurrence: almost 400 children in the institution, no privacy or place to store private things, not allowed to leave. The diet lacked fresh vegetables and fruit, sometimes children complained of hunger, strict regiment, and punishments, children feared adults and felt particularly afraid at night, when older children went to younger children's beds. Only allowed to shower once a week in small groups, other days

	the shower room was locked and no hot water available. Condition of equipment and buildings was poor.	
Corporal Punishment	Prohibited	
Children in Foster Care	2011: 5,451. 2009: 209 children with disabilities were in foster care.	
Children in Group Homes	2009: 3,185 children were in family-type children's homes.	
Children under Guardianship	2011: 63,057	
Children in Informal Care		
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2011: 3,084	A child could be adopted by a foreigner, if they had been on the central register for at least 1 year.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Not ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages	Many voluntourism opportunities.	
Children Reunited with Family	2007: 21% of children who left institutions did so to be reunited with their biological families.	
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures

Education	Primary and secondary education is free and compulsory.
Healthcare	Free for children in state and community health establishments. Free prosthetics provided when necessary.
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	
Disability Allowance	
Family Support	Services to prevent child abandonment were absent.

Disability

Attitude	If a child showed signs of disability, they were brought before the Medical Pedagogical Consultancy. They determined the category of the child's disability – between 1-4, with 3 and 4 being 'uneducable' – this determined the child's whole future life, those in category 3 or 4 were usually institutionalised for life. This assessment might only take 10 minutes and was relatively arbitrary. Children with disabilities were less likely to be adopted domestically.
Children with Disabilities	
Children with HIV/AIDS	2017: 5,000 children under age 15. 2010: Widespread belief that HIV+ children should not and could not be fostered. It was extremely rare for children living with HIV in residential care to be adopted.
Enrolled in School	2012: 170 preschool sanatorium-type educational establishments, 186 special preschool establishments, and 1,575 composite preschool educational establishments for about 5,000 children with disabilities or special needs.

Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	Despite considerable work in the area of social services for children with special developmental needs and their families, the overall proportion of children who received services remained low, especially among rural children.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Country Background

Population in 2013	Total: 63,136,270	Under 18: 13,310,760
Number of Orphans	2016: 490,000	
Income Classification in 2017	High-income country	
Violence		
Landmines	Yes, in the Falklands.	
Internally Displaced		
Refugees in 2015		
Child Trafficking	2017: 25% of trafficked children who were in the care of local authorities had gone missing from the system. 1,015 identified or suspected victims of child trafficking were in care.	
Malnutrition	2014-2016: <2.5% of the population was undernourished.	
Poverty	2014-2016: 4.2% experienced food insecurity.	
Environment/Climate		
Other Issues	Brexit caused political chaos.	

Alternative Care Arrangements

Children in Alternative Care	2016: 15,317 in Scotland. 5,662 in Wales. 2015: 69,540 in England. 2008: 2,433 in Northern Ireland. 2009: 3,700 children in care were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.	Children who were unable to stay within the foster care system were institutionalised. Only 14% of children in residential care were under 13 years old and 40% over 16. The definition of 'looked after' children was different in Scotland than it was in England and Wales, because in the former children requiring supervision in their home were included in this number, while in England and Wales they were not.
Reasons for Ending up in Care	Neglect, abuse, family dysfunction, acute stress in the family, behavioural problems, child disability, or parental illness or disability.	
Children in Institutions	2016: 1,477 children were in residential care (incl. 60 in secure accommodation) in Scotland. 2008: 319 children lived in residential care in Northern Ireland.	
Number of Institutions	2014: In England 1,760. 2008: In Northern Ireland 55.	
State-run/Privately Run	2017: In Scotland most residential facilities were run by the local govt., but some were privately run. 2014: In England, 1,390 out of 1,760 homes were run by private organisations or charities. 2008: In Northern Ireland few residential facilities were privately run, most by the state. 2004: In Wales almost 2/3 of institutions was privately run.	
Conditions in Institutions	2014: In England, only 1% of children's homes was rated as inadequate, and homes rated inadequate were more likely to be closed. 2009: A pilot programme was started to move from an emotionally distant (in an attempt to protect children from sexual abuse), overly bureaucratic approach to a more emotionally available and homely approach. Staff turnover in homes was high.	

Corporal Punishment	2018: Prohibited in all settings but the home.	
Children in Foster Care	2016: 4,264 in Wales. 2008: 1,376 in Northern Ireland.	Institutional care was seen as a last and worst resort, however this led to a situation where removing a child from the foster care system was postponed until by age 8 or 9 a child had already gone through 20 foster care placements.
Children in Group Homes	There were no large institutions anymore, most homes were organised in units of about 6 children.	
Children under Guardianship		
Children in Informal Care	The number of children looked after by friends and family quadrupled between 2001 and 2014 to over 4,000, likely due to a transfer from informal to formal kinship care. This trend was expected to decrease with the introduction of legislation (Scotland), which supports families to keep children out of care.	
Children in Kafalah		
Children Adopted	2015: 5,821 children were adopted from care.	Domestic adoptions were becoming increasingly open, with ties to the birth family not irreversibly severed. Some research suggested that in the UK as many as 40% of children who had been adopted had some form of disability.
Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention	Signed and ratified	
Signs of Illegal Adoption		
Signs of Exploitation Through Orphanages		
Children Reunited with Family		
Work Towards Deinstitutionalisation		

Family Strengthening Measures	
Education	Yes. Free school lunch for all the first 3 years in primary school.
Healthcare	Free
Poverty Relief	Yes
Child Allowance	Yes
Disability Allowance	Yes
Family Support	Yes

Disability	
Attitude	Less than half of people with disabilities were in work. 30% of families living in poverty had a child with disabilities. People with disabilities usually had an income lower than the national average, while having to cover higher than average costs. A survey of families of children with disabilities in the United Kingdom found that 70% thought that understanding and acceptance of disability among their community was poor or unsatisfactory, and almost half encountered problems in accessing such support services as childcare. A disproportioned number of children waiting for permanent family-based placements had disabilities and children with disabilities generally had to wait much longer than other children before a long-term home could be found for them.
Children with Disabilities	2009: In Scotland almost 11,500 children were assessed to have disabilities.
Children with HIV/AIDS	
Enrolled in School	2015: In Northern Ireland 71,018 children with SEN attended school. 2014: 17.9% of pupils in schools in England had SEN, 1,492,950 children. 2009: In Scotland 7,500 children with disabilities were not in mainstream schools.
Enrolled in Special Schools	
Enrolled in Mainstream Schools	
Provision of Community Support	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed and ratified

Additional Comments

Very hard to compare the data, because England and Wales have separate legislation, policies, and definitions from Scotland and from Northern Ireland.

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