SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.1)

0. Indicator information (SDG_INDICATOR_INFO)

0.a. Goal (SDG_GOAL)

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

0.b. Target (SDG_TARGET)

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

0.c. Indicator (SDG_INDICATOR)

Indicator 16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

0.d. Series (SDG_SERIES_DESCR)

VC_VAW_SXVLN - Proportion of population aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 [16.2.3]

0.e. Metadata update (META_LAST_UPDATE)

2024-09-27

0.f. Related indicators (SDG_RELATED_INDICATORS)

Not applicable

0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring (SDG_CUSTODIAN_AGENCIES)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

1. Data reporter (CONTACT)

1.a. Organisation (CONTACT_ORGANISATION)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

2. Definition, concepts, and classifications (IND_DEF_CON_CLASS)

2.a. Definition and concepts (STAT_CONC_DEF)

Definition:
Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Concepts:
Within the International Classification of Violence against Children (ICVAC), sexual violence is defined as 'Any deliberate, unwanted and non-essential act of a sexual nature, either completed or attempted, that is perpetrated against a child, including for exploitative purposes, and that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, pain or psychological suffering.' Sexual violence against a child can take many forms including rape, sexual assault or non-contact sexual violence (see ICVAC for detailed definitions).

2.b. Unit of measure (UNIT_MEASURE)

Percent (%) of population aged 18-29

2.c. Classifications (CLASS_SYSTEM)

International Classification of Violence against Children

3. Data source type and data collection method (SRC_TYPE_COLL_METHOD)

3.a. Data sources (SOURCE_TYPE)

Household surveys such as **Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)** have been collecting data on this indicator in low- and middle-income countries since the late 1990s.

The DHS includes a standard module that captures information on rape (ICVAC category 301) and sexual assault of a child (ICVAC category 302) but does not collect information about non-contact sexual violence against a child (ICVAC category 303). . In recent years, some countries conducting Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) have included the standard, or an adapted, version of the DHS module. Respondents are asked whether, at any time in their lives (as children or adults), anyone ever forced them – physically or in any other way – to have sexual intercourse or to perform any other sexual acts against their will. Those responding 'yes' to this question are then asked how old they were the first time this happened.

It is important to flag that the DHS module was not specifically designed to capture experiences of sexual violence in childhood and while it produces data that can be used to report on 16.2.3, methodological work is underway to develop standard questions specifically designed to measure sexual violence against children in all its forms (i.e., both contact and non-contact).

3.b. Data collection method (COLL_METHOD)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) undertakes a wide consultative process of compiling and assessing data from national sources for the purposes of updating its global databases on the situation of children. Up until 2017, the mechanism UNICEF used to collaborate with national authorities on ensuring data quality and international comparability on key indicators of relevance to children was known as Country Data Reporting on the Indicators for the Goals (CRING).

As of 2018, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on selected child-related global SDG indicators for which it is custodian or co-custodian to meet emerging standards and guidelines on data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators, which place strong emphasis on technical rigour, country ownership and use of official data and statistics. The consultation process involves soliciting feedback directly from National Statistical Offices, as well as other government agencies responsible for official statistics, on the latest available national data source and estimates for each indicator. Countries have the opportunity to submit new or updated data sources and estimates to be considered for official SDG reporting. A thorough technical assessment is conducted by UNICEF as the custodian agency, in consultation with the country, and feedback is made available to countries on

whether or not specific data sources and data points are accepted for official SDG reporting, and if not, the reasons why.

3.c. Data collection calendar (FREQ_COLL)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will undertake an annual country consultation likely between December and January every year to allow for review and processing of the feedback received in order to meet global SDG reporting deadlines.

3.d. Data release calendar (REL_CAL_POLICY)

Annually in March

3.e. Data providers (DATA_SOURCE)

National Statistical Offices (for the most part) or line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on sexual violence against women and men.

3.f. Data compilers (COMPILING_ORG)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

3.g. Institutional mandate (INST_MANDATE)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is responsible for global monitoring and reporting on the wellbeing of children. It provides technical and financial assistance to Member States to support their efforts to collect quality data on violence against children, including through the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) household survey programme. UNICEF also compiles violence statistics with the goal of making internationally comparable datasets publicly available, and it analyses violence statistics which are included in relevant data-driven publications, including in its flagship publication, *The State of the World's Children.*

4. Other methodological considerations (OTHER_METHOD)

4.a. Rationale (RATIONALE)

Sexual violence is one of the most unsettling of children's rights violations. Experiences of sexual violence in childhood hinder all aspects of development: physical, psychological/emotional and social. Apart from the physical injuries that can result, researchers have consistently found that the sexual abuse of children is associated with a wide array of mental health consequences and adverse behavioural outcomes in adulthood.

The issue is universally relevant and the indicator captures one of the gravest forms of violence against children. The right of children to protection from all forms of violence is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols.

4.b. Comment and limitations (REC_USE_LIM)

The availability of comparable data remains a serious challenge in this area as many data collection efforts have relied on different study methodologies and designs, definitions of sexual violence, samples and questions to elicit information. Data on the experiences of boys are particularly sparse. A further challenge in this field is underreporting, especially when it comes to reporting on experiences of sexual violence among boys and men.

4.c. Method of computation (DATA_COMP)

Number of young women and men aged 18-29 years who report having experienced any sexual violence by age 18 divided by the total number of young women and men aged 18-29 years, respectively, in the population multiplied by 100.

4.d. Validation (DATA_VALIDATION)

A wide consultative process is undertaken to compile, assess and validate data from national sources. The consultation process involves soliciting feedback directly from National Statistical Offices, as well as other government agencies responsible for official statistics, on the latest available national data source and estimates for each indicator. Countries have the opportunity to submit new or updated data sources and estimates to be considered for official SDG reporting. A thorough technical assessment is conducted by UNICEF as the custodian agency, in consultation with the country, and feedback is made available to countries on whether or not specific data sources and data points are accepted for official SDG reporting, and if not, the reasons why.

4.e. Adjustments (ADJUSTMENT)

Not applicable

4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level (IMPUTATION)

- **At country level**

When data for a country are entirely missing, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) does not produce modelled estimates and therefore no country-level estimates are published.

- **At regional and global levels**

When internationally comparable country-level data are available for at least 50 per cent of the regional poulation for the relevant age group, the regional average is applied to countries with missing values for the purposes of calculating regional aggregates, but imputed country-level values are not published. When internationally comparable country-level data are not available for at least 50 per cent of the regional population for the relevant age group, other national surveys and studies are used to inform regional aggregates, but such country-level values are not published.

4.g. Regional aggregations (REG_AGG)

The global aggregate is a weighted average of all countries with available data. Global aggregates are published regardless of population coverage, but the number of countries and the proportion of the relevant population group represented by the available data are clearly indicated.
Regional aggregates are weighted averages of all the countries within the region.

4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level (DOC_METHOD)

Countries gather data on childhood experiences of sexual violence through household surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys. In some countries, such data are also collected through other national household surveys, including dedicated surveys on violence. This indicator captures all experiences of sexual violence that occurred during childhood (i.e. prior to the age of 18 years) regardless of the legal age of consent stipulated in relevant national legislation.

4.i. Quality management (QUALITY_MGMNT)

The process behind the production of reliable statistics on violence is well established within UNICEF. The quality and process leading to the production of the SDG indicator 16.2.3 is ensured by working closely with the statistical offices and other relevant stakeholders through a consultative process.

4.j Quality assurance (QUALITY_ASSURE)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) maintains the global database on sexual violence in childhood that is used for SDG and other official reporting. Before the inclusion of any data point in the database, it is reviewed by technical focal points at UNICEF headquarters to check for consistency and overall data quality. This review is based on a set of objective criteria to ensure that only the most recent and reliable information are included in the databases. These criteria include the following: data sources must include proper documentation; data values must be representative at the national population level; data are collected using an appropriate methodology (e.g., sampling); data values are based on a sufficiently large sample; data conform to the standard indicator definition including age group and concepts, to the extent possible; data are plausible based on trends and consistency with previously published/reported estimates for the indicator.

As of 2018, UNICEF undertakes an annual consultation with government authorities on 10 of the child-related SDG indicators in its role of sole or joint custodian, and in line with its global monitoring mandate and normative commitments to advancing the 2030 Agenda for children. This includes indicator 16.2.3. More details on the process for the country consultation are outlined below.

4.k Quality assessment (QUALITY_ASSMNT)

Data consistency and quality checks are regularly conducted for validation of the data before dissemination

5. Data availability and disaggregation (COVERAGE)

Data availability:
Nationally representative and comparable data are currently available for women from around 68 low- and middle-income countries and for men from around 12 low- and middle-income countries.

Time series:
Not available

Disaggregation:
None (the indicator is already sex-specific)_

6. Comparability / deviation from international standards (COMPARABILITY)

Sources of discrepancies:
The country estimates compiled and presented in the global SDG database have been re-analyzed by UNICEF in order to obtain estimates for the standard age group for reporting (i.e., ages 18-29 years) since data for this age group are not typically available in published survey reports.

7. References and Documentation (OTHER_DOC)

URL:
https://data.unicef.org/

References:

http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/sexual-violence.html
https://data.unicef.org/resources/a-generation-to-protect/