

The State of Children in the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Region in 2025





Demographics

490 million children under **18 (U18)** worldwide live in East Asia and the Pacific (EAP), including **106 million (1 in 6)** children under 5 (U5).



1 in 5 U18 in the world lives in EAP.

However, since 2000...



EAP **U18** population declined by **17%**.



EAP **U5** population declined by **26%**.

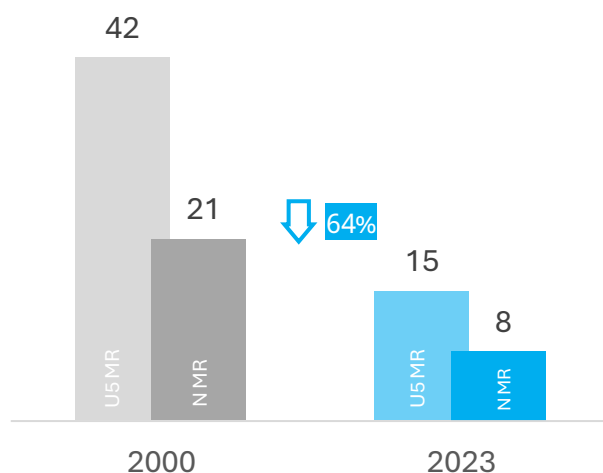




Child mortality

From 2000 to 2023, EAP **neonatal** and **under-five (U5) mortality** rates **declined both by 64%**.

Neonatal and U5 mortality rates
(deaths per 1,000 live births)



Under-five mortality rate (U5MR) is the probability of dying between birth and exact age 5, expressed per 1,000 live births.

Neonatal mortality rate (NMR) is the probability of dying within the first 28 days of life, expressed per 1,000 live births.



Immunization

In 2024, **1.8 million (9%)** of one-year-old children in EAP have not received any dose of DTP vaccine (**zero-dose children**).



13% of the world zero-dose 1-year-old children live in EAP.

Since 2000, the regional situation **has not been improving**.



Malnutrition



14.9 million

U5 **stunted** children live in EAP.

Since 2000, stunting prevalence **declined** by **50%** in EAP compared to 30% worldwide.

Stunting refers to a child who is too short for his or her age. It is the failure to grow both physically and cognitively and is the result of chronic or recurrent malnutrition.



4 million

U5 **wasted** children live in EAP:

10% of the world's wasted U5.

Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for his or her height. Wasting, or acute malnutrition, is the result of recent rapid weight loss or the failure to gain weight. A child who is moderately or severely wasted has an increased risk of death, but treatment is possible.



8.3 million

U5 **overweight** children live in EAP:

25% of the world's overweight U5.



Prevalence of overweight children U5 **increased** from **5% in 2000** to **8%** in 2024 in EAP:

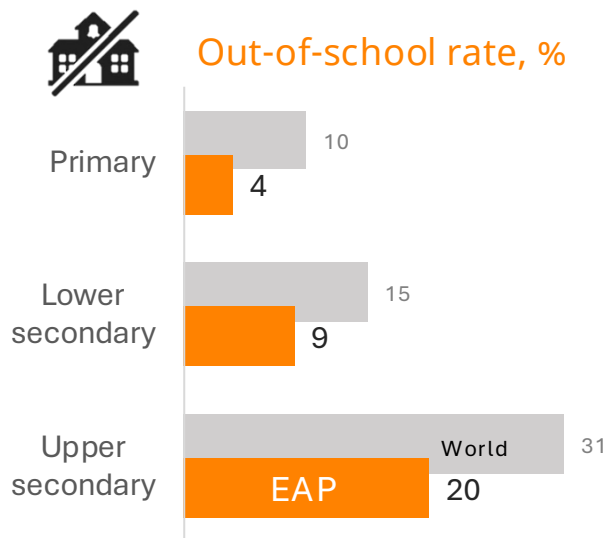
faster than **the world's average** which went up from 5 to only 6%.



Overweight refers to a child who is too heavy for his or her height. This form of malnutrition results from expending too few calories for the amount consumed from food and drinks and increases the risk of noncommunicable diseases later in life.

Education

In EAP, **31 million** children and adolescents U18 are **out of school**.



Despite **attendance rates** higher than global averages,



34% of ten-year-old children in EAP live in **learning poverty**.

This means that **1 in 3** children **cannot read and comprehend** a basic text.



Child marriage

The EAP region is home to

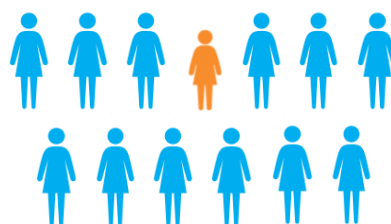
92 million
child brides:



14% of the
global total.

One in 13 women

in this region were first
married or in **union before**
their 18th birthday.



Birth registration



7%

of children U5 —
8.3 million
are **not registered**
in the EAP region.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

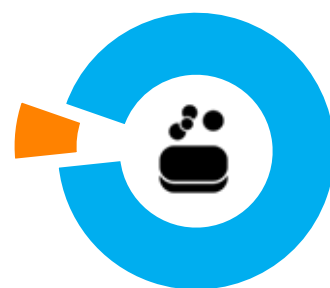
95% of the EAP population have **access to basic drinking water**, yet the remaining



5% representing
112 million people still
do not have access.

93% of the EAP population **have access to handwashing facility** with water and soap at home.

However, the remaining **7%**
represents **148 million**
people who still **do not have access.**



94% of people
in EAP have access to
basic sanitation...



while

17 million
still practice **open**
defecation.



Social inclusion

43.1 million = 8%

of U18 children in EAP have a **disability**.



While most EAP countries are in the middle-income category,



one in three children U18
lives **in monetary poverty** (less than
\$8.30 per day).

Data presented are derived from UNICEF global databases. The indicators data draw on inter-agency estimates and nationally representative household surveys such as Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). In addition, data from administrative sources and other United Nations organizations have been used. More detailed information on data sources is in the statistical compendium.

The demographic indicators and many of the population-related indicators in these tables were based on the latest population estimates and projections from World Population Prospects 2024, published by the United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

UNICEF supports countries in collecting and analysing data for monitoring the situation of children and women through MICS, its global household survey programme. MICS is the leading data source for shaping government policies and programmes for children around the world, and for measuring the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). More information is available at UNICEF MICS portal: <https://mics.unicef.org/>.

Unless otherwise mentioned, regional and global aggregates for indicators were generated as population- weighted averages using data from World

Population Prospect 2024. They accord with the relevant age and sex groups for each indicator. Efforts have been made to maximize the comparability of statistics across countries and time. Nevertheless, data used at country level may differ in terms of the methods used to collect data or arrive at estimates, and in terms of the populations covered. Furthermore, data presented here are subject to evolving methodologies, revisions of time-series data and changing regional classifications. Also, data comparable from one year to the next are unavailable for some indicators.

Data presented in the statistical tables generally reflect information compiled and updated from January 2024 through October 2025, with a specific cut-off time associated with individual indicators described in the ‘main data sources’ section underneath each table. The ‘last updated’ time stamp reflects when the data were compiled and updated as part of country consultation or inter-agency processes that are specific to individual topics.

Interested readers are encouraged to visit UNICEF Data porta: <https://data.unicef.org/> for methodological details of the indicators and statistics.