

# ALL CHILDREN COUNT BUT NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE COUNTED



# ALL CHILDREN COUNT BUT NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE COUNTED

An open letter to the UN and its Member States  
Over 250 signatory organisations as of 15 November 2016

The signatories of this document welcome Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Global Action and applaud all involved for including many of children's holistic needs, including health care, education, and protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse. We wholeheartedly support the intention to 'leave no one behind' in the post-2015 global development agenda. To ensure that this is so, it is important that the global monitoring framework includes mechanisms to assess the most vulnerable and hard to reach populations.

Indeed, all children count, but not all children are counted. As a result, some of the world's most vulnerable children – those without parental care or at risk of being so; in institutions or on the street; trafficked; separated from their families as a result of conflict, disaster or disability; or recruited into armed groups – have largely fallen off the UN's statistical map. There are only limited data about how many children live in such precarious circumstances, except for scattered estimates from some specific countries.

According to UNICEF's 2015 Progress for Children report, *"As the world prepares for a new development agenda, data and evidence will only increase in importance and national systems must be strengthened to meet new demands. The new data agenda will need to harness the potential of new technologies to collect, synthesize and speed up the use of data, and also reinvigorate efforts to ensure complete and well-functioning registration systems. The new data agenda will need to provide insight into the most vulnerable children, relying on household surveys that provide data regardless of whether or not a child attends school or is taken to a health facility, as well as developing new approaches for collecting information about children who are homeless, institutionalized or internally displaced."*

With this in mind, we, the undersigned, recommend the following:

## **1. Ensure that children living outside of households and/or without parental care are represented in disaggregated data.**

When assessing States' progress in improving the lives of children, living arrangements and caregiving environments are key markers for vulnerability, risk, and disadvantage. Children without parental care often experience abuse, neglect, lack of stimulation, and extreme and toxic stress, all of which have a profoundly negative effect on children's health, education, development, and protection.

If the Post-2015 agenda is to leave no one behind, it is essential that the global monitoring framework includes methodologies to ensure that children living outside of households and/or without parental care are represented and that data is used to inform targeted, appropriate, and accessible interventions.

Data disaggregation by care-giving setting/living arrangement is key to tracking progress for all children, particularly regarding Goals 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 16. This is critical to: a) analysing how trends differ between children living outside of households and/or without parental care and the general child population; and b) ensuring that programs and policies prioritize the most vulnerable children. Data collection should reflect the goals and definitions included in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## **2. Improve and expand data collection methodologies to ensure all children are represented.**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has urged all States to develop indicators and data collection systems consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, children living outside of households and/or without parental care are not covered in current mainstream data collection processes, which rely on household-based surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (USAID) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (UNICEF). Innovative approaches must be developed to assess the conditions of the world's most vulnerable children. The global monitoring framework must include mechanisms to track progress for all children, including those who are currently invisible as the result of inadequate indicators and data collection systems.

The post-2015 global monitoring framework must establish mechanisms to integrate household-based data with additional information on children temporarily or permanently living outside of households. In some countries, such data already exist although, to date, such data have not been routinely collected or analyzed.

The post-2015 global monitoring framework offers an opportunity to do more and better on behalf of the world's most vulnerable children – ensuring, first and foremost, that they are no longer invisible.

Thank you for your consideration.

*For more information, please contact  
Merel.Krediet@wearelumos.org or Sofia.Garcia-Garcia@sos-kd.org*

ABC Children's Aid  
Abibimman Foundation  
AbleChildAfrica  
Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts  
ACER Brasil  
ActionAid International Rwanda  
ADD International  
ADILISHA: Children, Youth & Family Preservation  
Afaiv Onlus\*  
African Child Policy Forum  
African Institute for Child Studies  
Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes  
Alliance for Children Mauritius  
Alliance for Development  
Alliance for Parenting Education in Africa  
Amankay Instituto de Estudos e Pesquisas  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Another Hope Children's Ministries  
Apmar Onlus\*  
Association des Jeunes Solidaires de l'Afrique  
A.J.S.A.  
Association for Childhood Education International  
Association for Promotion Sustainable  
Development India\*  
Association of Working Children and Youth of  
Central African Republic\*  
ATD Fourth World  
Barcha\*  
Bethany Christian Services  
Better Care Network  
Better Care Network Netherlands  
BMOREiTGUY LLC  
Buckner - Peru  
Cambodian Children's Trust  
Campagnon D'Action Pour le Developpement  
Familial (CADF-ONG)  
Candid Concepts Development\*  
Care for Children  
Casa Viva - Costa Rica  
CBM  
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change  
Research - Nigeria\*  
Centre for Youth Development and Adult Education  
Centre of Excellence on Alternative Care of Children,  
India  
CESVI  
CHD - Coordination Humanitaire et Développement  
(includes 39 French international solidarity  
organisations)  
Child Helpline International  
Child in Family Focus - Kenya  
Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) - Uganda  
Child Rights Coalition Asia  
Childcare Rwanda  
ChildFund Alliance  
Childhood Development Trust Fund Network

Children Agenda Forum - Kenya  
Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE)  
Children and Young People with Disability Australia  
Christian Alliance for Orphans  
Christine Akwero Foundation (CAF) - Uganda  
Collective Community Action  
Columbia University - Columbia Group for Children  
in Adversity  
Columbia University - Mailman School of Public  
health  
Comité de los Derechos del Niño (CDNU) - Uruguay  
Community Active In Development Association  
(CADA)\*  
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute  
Consortium for Street Children  
Construions Ensemble le Monde (ONG CEM)  
Convention pour l'Emergence du Sénégal -  
Coalition Agenda Post2015 (C.E.S.-C.A.P2015)\*  
Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza  
(CNCA)  
Coordination SUD  
CPC Learning Network  
Crece con Justicia  
Curious Minds  
Danielle Childrens Fund  
Defence for Children International (DCI)  
Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional (DNI) Costa  
Rica  
Developpeurs Sans Frontieres\*  
Disability Rights International  
Dogodogo Centre Street Children Trust  
Edutech for Environment  
Elevate Children Funders Group  
Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y  
Reproductivos  
ENFOQUE Niñez  
Equipe Pastorale auprès des Enfants en Détresse\*  
Essl Foundation\*  
EU-CORD  
Eurochild  
European Association For Service Providers for  
Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)  
European Foundation Centre (EFC)  
European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)  
Ezra Ministries of Tanzania  
Family for Every Child  
Firelight Foundation  
First Step - Cambodia  
For Our Children Foundation  
Forum Syd\*  
Foster Care India  
Foundation for Environmental Stewardship  
Friends of Education for African Children Orphaned  
by AIDS  
Fundacion Kidsave Colombia  
GARJAN-Nepal  
GHR Foundation  
Gimnaziul Ciutulești\*

Gimnaziul Gura Căinarului\*  
Global Alliance for Children (GAC)  
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children  
Global Social Service Workforce Alliance  
GlobalPartnersUnited\*  
Goal Global  
Good Health Community Programmes\*  
Grand River South East Youth Circle\*  
Group For Transcultural Relations, GRT  
Haitian Families First  
Helen Little Haiti Foundation  
HelPeople Foundation NGO  
Heshima Kenya\*  
Hope and Homes  
Hope Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship  
Human Dignity Foundation  
Human Rights Watch  
Inclusion International  
Independence of Disabled Persons of Kenya [IDPK]\*  
Independent Living Programme for People with Disabilities  
International Adoption  
International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates  
International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)  
International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO)  
International Social Service - Australia  
International Social Service - Canada  
International Social Service - Netherlands  
International Social Service - USA  
International Social Service -Switzerland  
International Society on Early Intervention  
International Step by Step Association (ISSA)  
IntraHealth International  
Investing in Children and their Societies  
Isman Women Initiative Support Organisation (ISMAN)  
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environment Nepal (JVE NEPAL)\*  
Jo'burg Child Welfare  
Kakamega CSOs Network\*  
KEDEN-Alliance for Community Survival  
Kenya Counselling & Psychological Association\*  
Kidasha (formerly: Child Welfare Scheme)  
KidSave  
Kiviwosheg  
La Porte Ouverte asbl  
Lango Samaritan Initiative Organization (LSIO)  
Le Radici e Le Ali - Associazione Famiglie Adottive  
Leonard Cheshire Disability  
liceul teoretic, Vasile Alecsandri, or.Marculesti, r-on Floresti\*  
Light for the World  
Literate Pakistan Programme - A project of NCLSW, Better Education for All - Pakistan\*  
Little Angels Network  
Lumos

M'Lop Tapang  
Maestral  
Make Mothers Matter - MMM  
Mario Negri Research Institute  
Masizame Child & Youth Care Centre  
Mouvement Africain Des Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs (MAEJT)- Central African Republic  
Movimiento Salvavidas\*  
MyRight- Empowers persons with disabilities  
Nadacni fond J&T  
National Foster Care Association Malta - NFCAM  
National Youth Council of Ireland  
National Youth Parliament\*  
Ndenuka Education Centre\*  
New Light Children Center Organization  
NGO Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi  
Numeria statistiche\*  
OAfrica  
Oak Foundation  
OPCIÓN  
Parenting in Africa Network  
Parenting Uganda\*  
Partnership for Early Childhood Development & Disability Rights (PECDDR)  
Patronato pro-home child irapuato, a.c. (Villa Infantil)  
Peoples' Development Forum (PDF)  
Phoenix Child Welfare  
Plan International  
Progetto Famiglia Onlus  
Psychosocial Support Centre Ltd  
Reacción Climática - Bolivia  
Red een Kind  
Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento Familiar  
RELAF  
REPSSI  
REPSSI Uganda  
Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect  
Restorative Justice Centre  
Restoring and empowering communities (REC)  
Rete Italiana Disabilita E Sviluppo  
ReThink Orphanages  
RETRAK  
RIATT – ESA  
Rodina u nás  
Rural Women Development Initiative  
S.A.L.V.E. International  
SA Cares for Life  
Safe Child Africa  
Salinger  
Samband íslenskra kristniboðsfélaga (Icelandic Lutheran Mission)  
Save the Children  
Save Uganda Foundation  
Secours Islamique France  
Sedava Enterprises  
Serviciu de asistență psihopedagogică\*

Sewing God's Seeds  
SFAC  
Sightsavers  
So They Can  
So They Can - Kenya  
Society "Our Children" Opatija - Croatia  
Sol i Togo  
SOS Children's Villages  
SOS Children's Villages - Lesotho  
SOS Children's Villages Greece  
SOS Children's Villages International  
SOS Children's Villages Italy  
SOS Children's Villages Germany  
SOS Enfants Sans Frontières France  
SOS Villages d'Enfants Belgique  
SOS Villages d'Enfants France  
SOS Villages d'Enfants Mali  
SPOON Foundation  
Stahili Foundation  
State University "A. Russo"\*  
Tanzania Community Based Option for Protection  
and Empowerment Organisation (TACOPE)\*  
TASH  
Technical Support Unit Ltd  
Terres des Hommes  
The Bouncing Ball Trust  
The Education Support Program, Open Society  
Foundation\*  
The Foundation for Tomorrow\*  
The Life Hood of Children and Development Society  
(LICHIDE)\*  
The RISE Institute  
Tiraspol State University  
TRE for Africa Foundation

Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC)  
Uganda Reproductive Health Bureau  
Umtata Child Abuse Resource Centre (UCARC)  
Unda Gotita de Agua -Fundacion Ecologica y  
Cultural  
UNESCO Center for Global Education  
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth  
Upendo Daima Project for Street Children  
Urbis Foundation  
Vela Microboard Association  
Vision Africa - Give a Child a Future  
Viva  
Voice Of Young Mothers  
VSO International  
We are the Present  
Wereldkinderen  
World Childhood Foundation  
World of Inclusion  
Young Mothers Support Group  
Young Strong Mothers Foundation  
Youth Against Debt - Eastern Visayas Chapter  
Youth Environment Network  
Youth for Peace International  
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)  
Youth Revolution Clan (Y.R.C.)\*

*\* No logo available*