

United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe
Conference of European Statisticians

United Nations Children's Fund
Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia

Expert meeting on statistics on children
Annual session of UNICEF's TransMonEE network
Geneva, 4–6 March 2024

Report of the meeting

I. Attendance

1. The UNECE/UNICEF expert meeting on statistics on children, including the annual session of UNICEF's TransMonEE network, was held from 4 to 6 March 2024 in Geneva at the Palais des Nations.

2. The meeting was attended by participants from the following countries and organizations: Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Canada; Croatia; Czechia; Finland; Georgia; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Luxembourg; Montenegro; Netherlands (Kingdom of the); North Macedonia; Norway; Poland; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Sweden; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uzbekistan; European Union; European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); UN Women; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); UNICEF Hosted Funds – Education Cannot Wait, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT); Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and an international expert. There were 107 participants.

II. Organization of the meeting

3. Dafna Kohen of Canada chaired the meeting.

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting:

- a) Innovative approaches to data collection on children
- b) Improvement of coherence and comparability of data on children with disabilities
- c) Improving data on children in alternative care
- d) Violence against children and the implementation of the International Classification of Violence against Children
- e) Dissemination of statistics on children
- f) Indicator systems to measure progress for children (TransMonEE network session)
- g) Current and future work on statistics on children

5. Discussions were prepared and led for topic *a* by Paata Shavishvili, Georgia; for topic *b* by Bridget Hearne, Ireland; for topic *c* by Izzy Millward, United Kingdom; for topic *d* by Ainur Dossanova, Kazakhstan; and for topic *f* by Majda Savićević, Montenegro.

6. The presented documents and slides are available on [the web page of the meeting](#).

III. Future work

7. Participants appreciated the exchange of experience and good practice that took place at the meeting. To strengthen this exchange, to support implementation of the Guidance on statistics on children, and to discuss methodological work on statistics on children, it was recommended to

organize regular meetings of a Group of Experts on Statistics on Children under the Conference of European Statisticians. These meetings would be linked with and benefit from the TransMonEE initiative and network.

8. To organize these meetings, and to formulate proposals, work plans and terms of reference for methodological work, it was recommended **to establish a Steering Group** composed of experts from committed member countries and international organizations. The composition of the Steering Group would initially build on the present meeting's organizing committee with representatives of Canada, Ireland, Italy, United Kingdom, the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNICEF and UNECE. Other interested countries and organizations would be welcome to join.

9. Participants recommended to **pursue methodological work on developing a minimum set of indicators** for the UNECE region, which would cover the three focus areas identified in the Guidance on statistics on children: violence against children, children in alternative care, and children with disabilities.

10. Participants recommended that national experts **facilitate and support the work on international classifications and indicators** as follows:

- a) Collect and exchange of good practice on producing statistics on violence against children according to the International Classification of Violence against Children.
- b) Support the development of the International Classification of Children in Alternative Care by piloting the draft classification in selected countries and summarizing findings from the country pilots.
- c) Exchange experience on child-related surveys to improve their international comparability and pertinence to the internationally agreed indicators and classifications.

11. It was decided that the plans for future work will be presented for review to the next meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, which will be held in October 2024.

12. The TransMonEE session, having taken note of the progress made with the actions decided at the 2022 Ankara meeting, recommended the following **actions and next steps for the TransMonEE network**:

- a) Agree with the focus of the next TransMonEE analytical series to be on violence against children, with relevant consultations with the network to be taken as part of the report development process.
- b) Continue and support the group of countries in the development and implementation of their *Data Improvement Plans on Children in Alternative Care*, including new countries planning to join in 2024.
- c) Welcome interests from countries to join a new group on *Indicator Systems to Measure Progress for Children*, which will bring together the interested countries for collective learning and exchange and supported by UNICEF.
- d) Conduct and take stock of country consultations on the first version of indicators of the Europe and Central Asia Child Rights Monitoring Framework as a potential core list of indicators on children.

IV. Adoption of the meeting report

13. The meeting adopted parts I–III of this report before adjourning. A summary of the discussion in the substantive sessions of the meeting will be presented in an annex to this report, to be prepared by the Secretariat after the meeting.