

**BEHIND THE AVERAGES:
UNCOVERING
CHILD
VULNERABILITY
IN EAST ASIA**

Measuring Child Wellbeing in East Asia with the
Multidimensional Child Vulnerability Index (MCVI)

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Foreword

When I think of the children across East Asia, I think of the dreams they have shared, their curiosity and smiles, their quiet determination in crowded classrooms, and their resilience in the face of storms—both literal and figurative. I also think of the children I've met whose stories never make the headlines: the girl in Cambodia who walks miles to school each day, the boy in Myanmar who dreams of peace, the child in Mongolia who faces winter without enough food.

This report, *Behind the Averages*, is not just a collection of data. It is a mirror held up to our region—reflecting both the progress we've made and the painful truths we must confront. It reminds us that averages can hide those who are most in need. That behind every statistic is a name, a face, a future.

As Regional Leader, I carry the weight of these realities with me every day. But I also carry hope. Hope rooted in the tireless work of our teams and partners. Hope in the courage of families who, despite adversity, continue to nurture their children's dreams. And hope in the power of evidence like this to drive change that is bold, compassionate, and enduring.

This report challenges us to act—not just with urgency, but with wisdom. It calls us to listen more deeply, to design more inclusively, and to advocate more courageously. It is a call to see the unseen, to reach the unreached, and to pursue more equitable development outcomes for children.

My hope is that this research will inform decisions and inspire action. Because every child matters. And every child deserves to be seen—not behind the averages, but at the very center of our vision.

Terry Ferrari

Regional Leader, East Asia
World Vision International



Acknowledgments

At the heart of World Vision's mission is a simple yet powerful belief: every child deserves the chance to grow up safe, healthy, educated, and cared for, no matter who they are or where they live. This report has been commissioned by World Vision International, a leading global humanitarian organization that reaches approximately 335 million children in nearly 100 countries worldwide.

Founded in 1950, World Vision is one of the world's largest privately funded Christian relief, development, and advocacy organizations. World Vision has a strong presence across East Asia, implementing child-focused programming in Cambodia, Mainland China, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. In 2025, World Vision will invest over US\$110 million

across 782 projects throughout the East Asian region, aimed at reducing child vulnerability and strengthening family resilience. World Vision's commitment to evidence-based programming and rigorous measurement has enabled the development of this Multidimensional Child Vulnerability Index analysis to better understand and address the complex challenges facing children in East Asia and globally.

The findings and analysis presented in this report reflect World Vision's dedication to protecting and empowering the world's most vulnerable children offering data-driven insights that guide policy, programming, and advocacy efforts across the humanitarian and development sectors.

Executive Summary

A Generation on the Edge: Confronting Child Vulnerability in East Asia

In the heart of East Asia, millions of children are growing up in the shadows of crisis. From the flood-ravaged plains of Myanmar to the urban slums of Cambodia and the remote highlands of Laos, children are facing a convergence of threats that jeopardize their health, safety, and future.

This report, Understanding Child Vulnerability in East Asia, presents the most comprehensive regional analysis to date using the Multidimensional Child Vulnerability Index (MCVI), a pioneering tool developed by World Vision International and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). Drawing on 36 indicators across five domains, extreme deprivation, discrimination, exposure to violence and abuse, environmental exposure, and resilience, the MCVI reveals a stark reality: East Asia's children are more vulnerable today than they were four years ago, with progress in child well-being stagnating or reversing in several countries.

Strategic and Actionable Insights

Systemic Vulnerability: East Asia's average MCVI score remains below global standards. Despite some national improvements, the region has seen a net deterioration in child well-being since 2021, driven by conflict, climate shocks, and institutional fragility.

Hotspots of Crisis

Myanmar ranks as the most vulnerable country in the region. Many families' lives have been disrupted. Parents struggle to provide food and safety for their children. Only 24% of adolescents in World Vision program areas report hope for the future.

Laos and Cambodia follow closely, with entrenched poverty, early marriage, and limited access to clean water, sanitation, and education, especially for girls and ethnic minorities.

Environmental Fragility: East Asia ranks third-worst globally for environmental exposure, with children in Mainland China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam facing frequent floods, typhoons, and droughts. In Cambodia, over 42% of urban children live in slum conditions, amplifying health and safety risks.

Violence and Abuse: The region has seen a rise in violent discipline, child marriage, and forced displacement. In Cambodia and Myanmar, over 60% of children experience violent discipline, while child marriage remains widespread in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Discrimination and Exclusion: Some children from ethnic minorities find it difficult to access education, healthcare and legal services.

Resilience Under Strain: Challenges related to governance, equitable service delivery, and institutional capacity continue to impact child well-being in some parts of the region. Myanmar's resilience score dropped by over 30%, reflecting institutional breakdown. Even countries with strong human capital, like Mainland China and Vietnam, struggle with equitable resource distribution.

Why This Matters

The MCVI is more than a diagnostic tool. It is a strategic compass for governments, donors, and development actors. It identifies where children are most at risk and why, enabling targeted, data-driven interventions that can reverse the tide of vulnerability.

World Vision's Response

In 2025, World Vision is investing over USD 110 million across 782 projects in East Asia.

Focus areas include climate-resilient infrastructure, inclusive education, child-sensitive disaster preparedness, and social protection systems.

The largest investments are in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, reflecting both need and opportunity for impact.

Key Findings

- **Child vulnerability in East Asia is higher than global averages, falling below international benchmarks.**

- **The region has seen a slight deterioration in child well-being since 2021.**

- **Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and North Korea remain the most vulnerable contexts for children in 2025.**

- **Mainland China records the strongest regional child protection outcomes in 2025, though environmental risks affect its large child population.**

- **Environmental exposure in East Asia ranks third-worst globally, with recurrent natural disasters impacting millions of children each year.**

- **Since 2021, the region has faced rising exposure to violence and abuse, modest gains in resilience, limited reductions in deprivation.**

- **Child vulnerability in East Asia reflects both exposure to shocks and systemic barriers, necessitating a dual focus on immediate disaster response and long-term capacity building in education, social and gender inclusion, and basic service provision.**



“When the soldiers came, I was so scared I cried. We had to run, hiding for two days without food. Now, I live in a monastery, far from home, feeling lonely and missing my friends. I still hope that one day, I can go back home, because only at home can I be truly happy again.”

(A 13-year-old boy from Myanmar forced to migrate because of the ongoing conflict)

Introduction

Globally, millions of children are growing up in unsafe and unequal conditions – without reliable access to food, water, sanitation, shelter, health, or education. Nearly 900 million live in poverty, and more than 333 million survive on less than US\$3 a day.¹ Recent conflicts, climate change, and COVID-19 – have affected the progress achieved globally in past decades. Almost one billion children now face extreme climate risks, while 470 million – nearly one in five – live in conflict zones, with lasting consequences for their safety and development.² A detailed understanding of these vulnerabilities is key to addressing their underlying causes and to guiding the work of World Vision and other actors seeking to assist in transformational change. To advance this understanding, World Vision International and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) have developed the Multidimensional Child Vulnerability Index (MCVI).

This report focuses on East Asia, one of World Vision's seven organisational regions, encompassing Cambodia, Mainland China, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. While the MCVI draws on global data covering all countries, including those without a World Vision field office, the results for East Asia provide a detailed picture of regional and subnational trends where the organisation maintains a significant operational presence.

Multidimensional Child Vulnerability Index

The MCVI is a composite measure that assesses child vulnerability across five critical domains, drawing on 36 indicators from authoritative sources to analyze challenges facing children worldwide.³ This framework captures five dimensions of vulnerability, encompassing both the breadth and depth of factors that influence children's lives:

- **Extreme Deprivation** – integrates indicators of child health and nutrition, including wasting, overweight, mortality, and immunisation, alongside essential living standards such as access to safe drinking water, sanitation, housing, and adequate food. Measures of multidimensional poverty and expected years of schooling reflect broader structural constraints that limit children's opportunities.
- **Extreme Discrimination** – captures how social, legal and cultural barriers limit children's rights and opportunities. Indicators include female birth registration, girls' exclusion from school, constraints on child development, abuse of children with disabilities, and religious restrictions. Collectively, these measure the extent to which identity, gender or ability determine access to essential services and protections.
- **Exposure to Violence and Abuse** – brings together indicators that cover both conflict-related threats, such as exposure to war, terrorism, and forced displacement,

and systemic issues including child labour, child marriage, and children held in detention. It also reflects broader patterns of harm through homicide rates, adolescent fertility, and the prevalence of physical punishment by caregivers. With online risks rising, child online safety has also been included.

- **Environmental Exposure** – measures how climate change, disaster risk and urban poverty influence child well-being. It captures exposure to natural, anthropogenic and socionatural hazards affecting children alongside disaster risk arising from the interaction of hazard frequency and intensity with population density and poverty, while the proportion of children living in slums highlights the added risks amidst expanding urbanisation.
- **Resilience** – reflects the social, political and economic capacities that enable societies to withstand shocks and sustain children's well-being. It draws on the eight Pillars of Positive Peace: well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbours, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and low levels of corruption. Together, these factors capture the enabling environment in which children grow.

The Index was developed through a collaborative process aligning World Vision's programmatic priorities with international research on child well-being, guided by the availability of comparable subnational data. It represents the first iteration of a global effort to measure and monitor multidimensional child vulnerability.

All indicators are normalised on a scale of 0-1. Within each domain, all indicators are weighted equally, reflecting that together they comprise the core features of the respective domain and are equally essential. Similarly, each domain contributes equally to the overall score from 0 (most vulnerable) to 1 (least vulnerable). This composite measure provides an important backdrop for sectoral analysis and for stakeholder data collected by World Vision and other dedicated partners in this space.

We welcome ongoing engagement with its findings and methodology, including regional gaps MCVI cannot currently fill. World Vision collects standardized project level data regionally via its Annual Impact Measurement (AIM) initiative. AIM tracks 76 outcome-level indicators aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), giving a community-level view of how children are faring in health, nutrition, education, protection, and economic well-being. This and other efforts, including those of our partners, stand to strongly complement the MCVI regionally in future. For a more detailed understanding of the methodology behind MCVI, including indicators and sources, please consult Annex A.

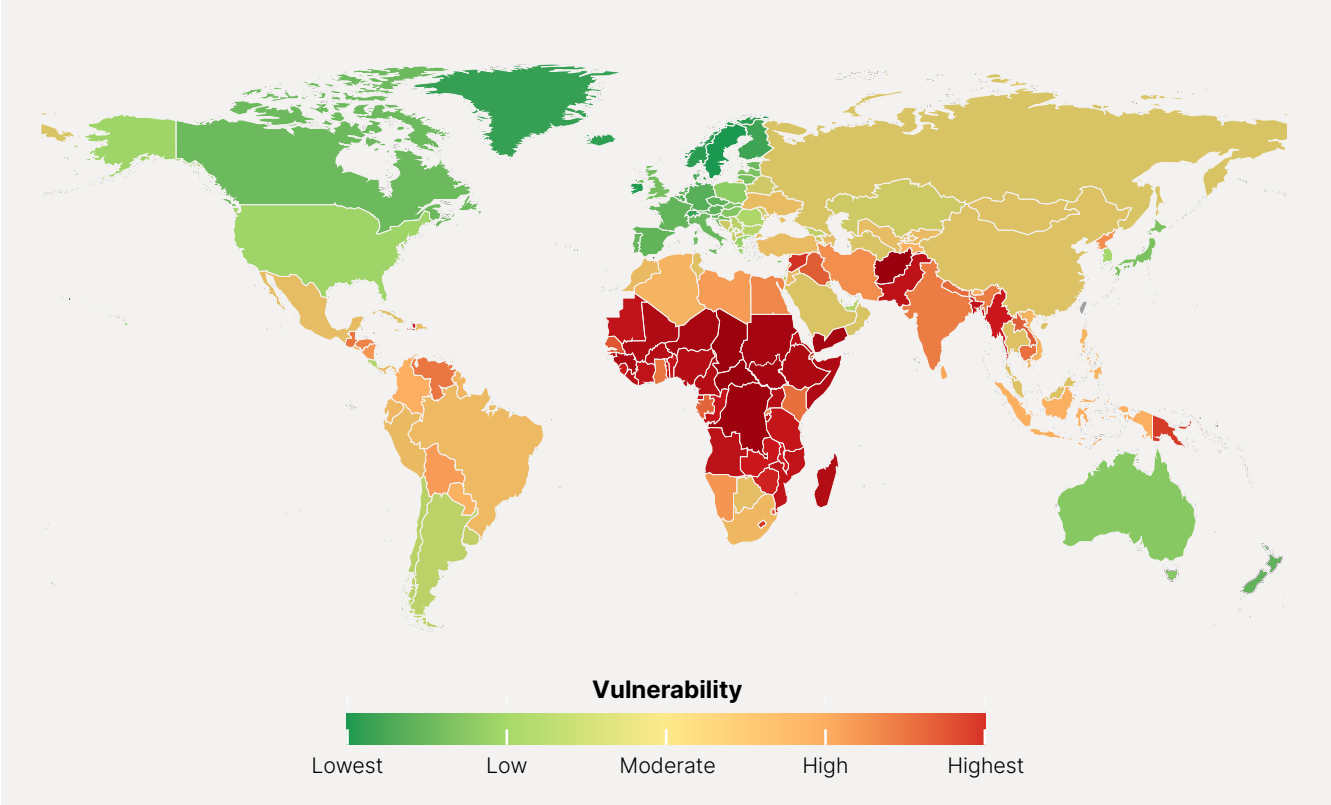
1. UNICEF. "Child Poverty". UNICEF., Accessed August 26, 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/social-policy/child-poverty>.

2. World Bank. 1.2 Billion People at High Risk from Climate Change Worldwide. Press release, October 31, 2024. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/10/31/1-2-billion-people-at-high-risk-from-climate-change-worldwide>; United Nations. "UNICEF: 2024 among Worst Years on Record for Children Caught in Conflict." UN News, December 27, 2024. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158561>.

The MCVI provides a global overview of children's exposure to overlapping risks across five dimensions of well-being: deprivation, discrimination, exposure to violence, environmental stress, and resilience. The map below presents the 2025 MCVI results, showing global variations

in child vulnerability. Locations shaded in red experience the highest levels of multidimensional vulnerability, while those in green indicate lower levels of risk and stronger child well-being outcomes.

FIGURE 1
Multidimensional child vulnerability, 2025



Note: This map uses the same colour scale applied worldwide, allowing direct comparison with global outcomes.



“On a school trip, many places weren’t made for wheel-chairs. While others played, my mom and I could only watch. I felt... a little lonely.”

(A 17-year-old girl in Mainland China living with a disability, yet shining with hope and resilience)

Regional Overview

East Asia demonstrates higher child vulnerability than global averages, with regional outcomes falling below international benchmarks. This gap affects the region's children, who face persistent challenges spanning interconnected domains. Vulnerabilities manifest differently across national contexts: some children experience comprehensive risks spanning health, education, and protection systems, while others face more targeted challenges, such as environmental exposure or discrimination. Despite variations in severity and scope, regional pattern indicates that children throughout East Asia continue to face systemic obstacles to achieving optimal well-being.

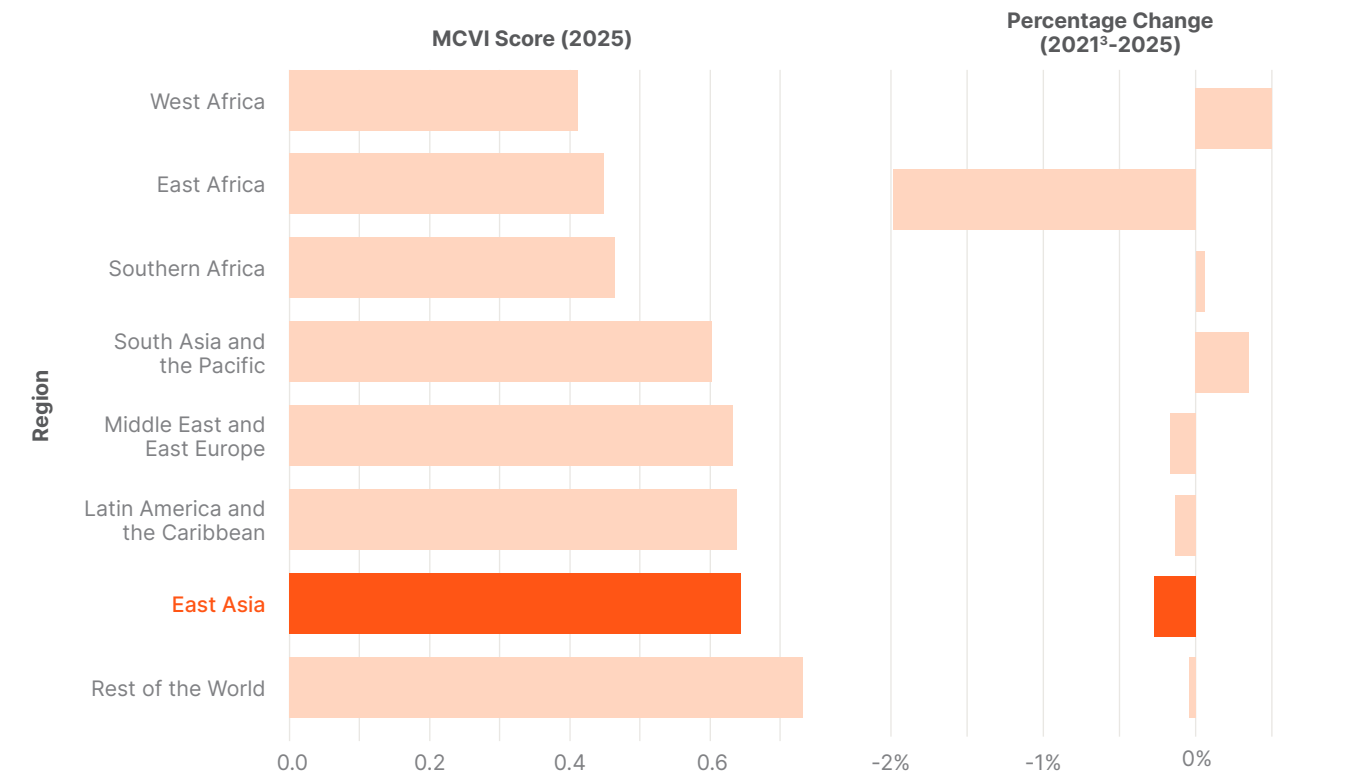
Within World Vision's global operational regions, East Asia shows strong comparative performance. While absolute vulnerability levels remain concerning, regional child protection systems appear to function more effectively than in other areas. However, this relative advantage

should not overshadow the substantial gaps that persist between current outcomes and optimal child well-being. The region's lack of progress since 2021 reflects both the lingering impacts of global disruptions, such as COVID-19, and potential limitations in current approaches. This highlights the need for renewed strategic focus to regain and scale up developmental momentum.

Figure 2 presents the average MCVI scores for World Vision regions in 2025 alongside the percentage change between 2021 and 2025. A higher score reflects lower levels of child vulnerability, meaning that East Asia remains more vulnerable than the global average. Moreover, East Asia has experienced a slight decline in child well-being since 2021, indicating stagnation in progress toward improved outcomes.

FIGURE 2
Regional child vulnerability scores and change trends, 2025

East Asia is the least vulnerable World Vision region after the non-operational, high-income countries. However, progress has slightly reversed since 2021, marking the sharpest decline globally after East Africa.



3. This report uses 2020 values as the 2021 baseline for comparative analysis, as updated 2025 data had not yet been released at the time of publication.

Children across East Asia experience a mix of progress and persistent vulnerability shaped by social, economic, and environmental factors. Rapid urbanisation, climate-related shocks, and unequal access to quality education and healthcare continue to affect child well-being across the region. Governance and institutional fragility in some contexts limit service delivery, while entrenched gender and social norms contribute to discrimination and exclusion.

In 2025, as shown in Figure 3, most countries, including Mainland China and Mongolia, recorded relatively

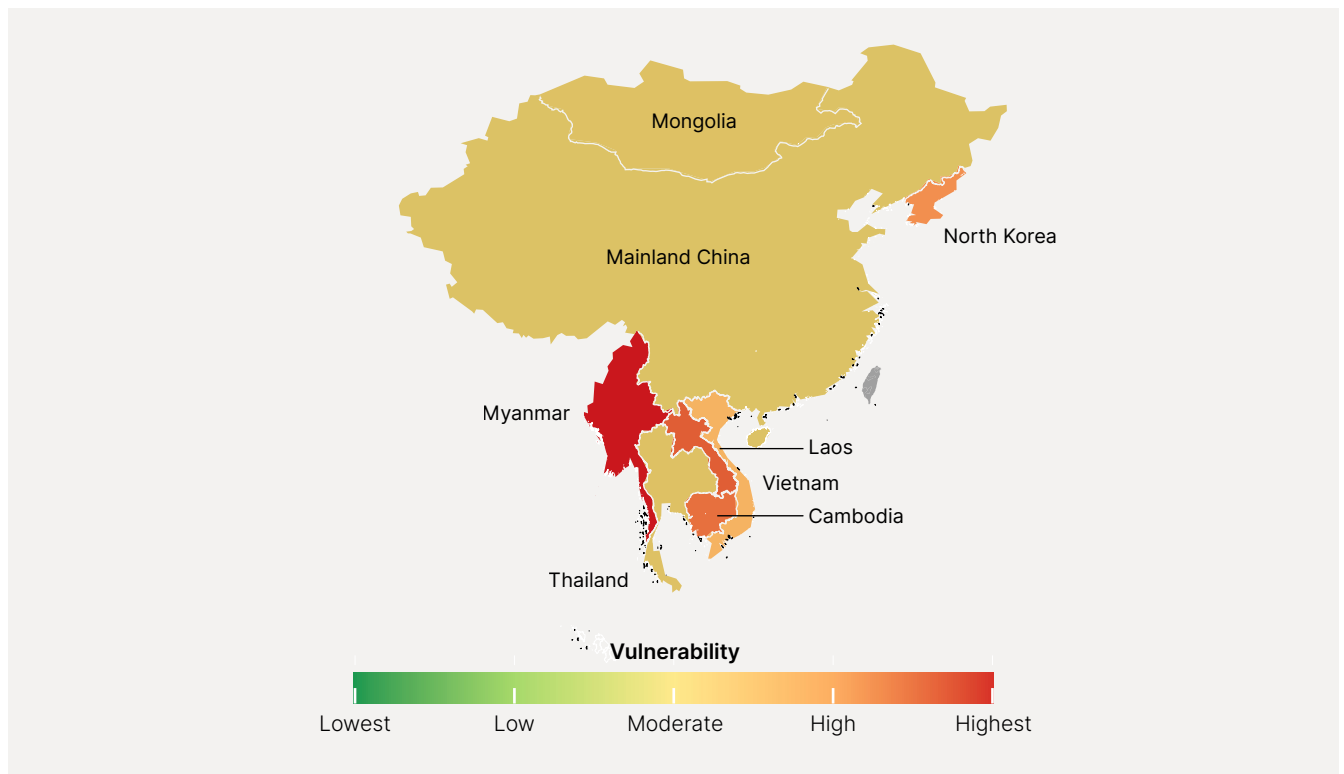
moderate levels of child vulnerability, while hotspots emerged in mainland Southeast Asia. Myanmar recorded the highest child vulnerability, followed by Laos, Cambodia, and North Korea where limited international monitoring capacity is at place.⁴

Without urgent action to address both immediate needs and the structural barriers that perpetuate these interconnected crises, an entire generation risks being defined by vulnerability rather than potential.

FIGURE 3

Child vulnerability in East Asia region, 2025

Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and North Korea face the highest child vulnerability in the region.



Note: This map highlights the areas where World Vision operates programs in East Asia.

4. North Korea's vulnerability indicators reflect data limitations.

Strongest and Weakest Child Vulnerability Outcomes, 2025

The following snapshots highlight East Asia's highest and lowest child vulnerability outcomes in 2025. They provide

context on the structural factors underpinning in the strongest performer and the drivers of heightened risk in the weakest performers, illustrating the full spectrum of child well-being across the region.

BOX 1

Myanmar

Myanmar faces governance challenges that create cascading effects on child well-being. The country performs poorly in indicators on resilience, governance, business environment and equitable distribution of resources, while limited information poses difficulties to the quality and scope of protective services. Children face heightened exposure to severe punishment, food security challenges, and high vulnerability to natural disasters with limited capacity to manage environmental shocks.

In WV program areas, 68% of households report recovering to pre-shock levels after disasters. Adolescent well-being in program areas is also fragile: only 24% express hope for the future and 26% report peaceful peer relations. This stands in contrast to the high collective efficacy rate of 94%.

Mainland China

Mainland China demonstrates relatively lower exposure in Violence and Abuse domain, with low levels of forcibly displaced children and children in conflict areas. This protection extends to lower rates of child labour and child marriage, along with reduced adolescent fertility and homicide rates, and higher scores on child online safety. Similarly, Mainland China shows stronger overall performance in basic service delivery, including high immunization coverage, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and stronger food security outcomes.

World Vision Annual Impact Measurement (AIM) results align with these findings: 92% of pre-primary-age children are developmentally on track, 87% of caregivers actively support learning, and only 17% of caregivers agree that physical punishment is necessary.

Progress and Setbacks since 2021

Figure 4 presents percentage changes in MCVI scores for East Asian countries between 2021 and 2025. Positive values indicate improvements (lower vulnerability), while negative values denote deterioration.

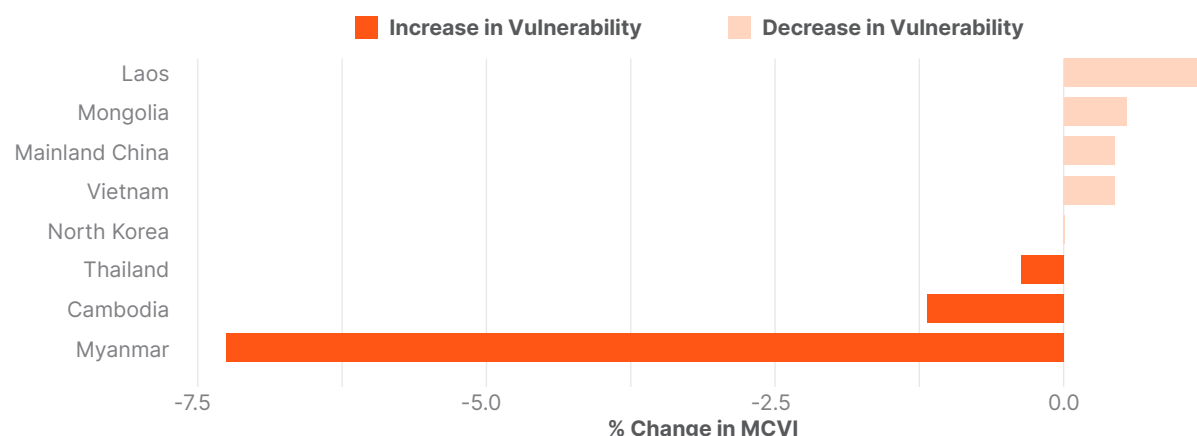
The sharpest decline occurred in Myanmar, where child vulnerability increased by more than 7% in score.

Cambodia and Thailand also recorded moderate deteriorations. By contrast, Laos posted the strongest improvement, followed by Mongolia, Mainland China, and Vietnam, which all posted small but positive gains. North Korea remained largely unchanged, according to the available data, though results should be interpreted with caution due to data limitations.

FIGURE 4

Change in child vulnerability in East Asia, between 2021 and 2025

Myanmar recorded the highest increase in child vulnerability since 2021.





"Every time thunder rolls, I feel scared. But I also think, maybe this is because our world is changing. Maybe the storms are angrier because the forests are smaller, and the air is hotter."

(A 12-year-old boy from Vietnam whose home was struck by lightning)

Analysis by Domain

Extreme Deprivation

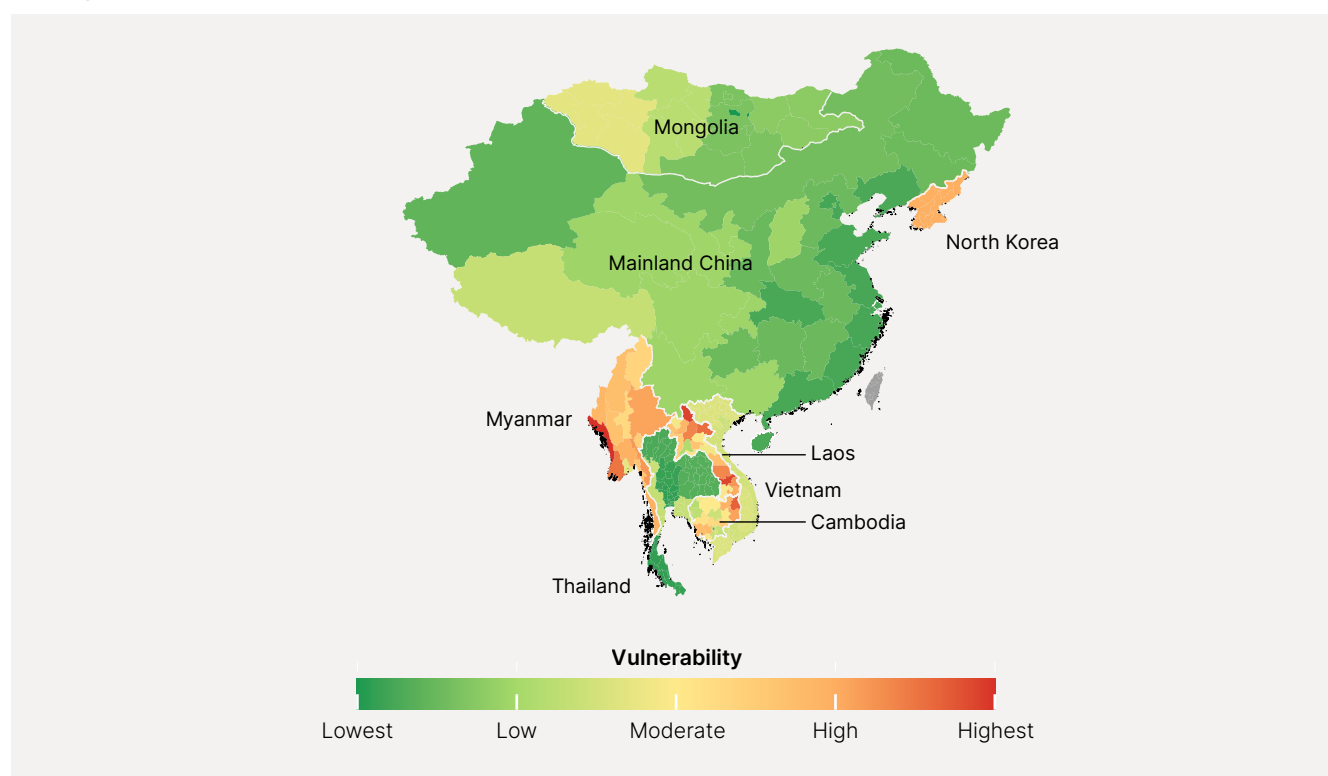
East Asia demonstrates stark disparities in meeting children's basic survival needs, with Myanmar and North Korea facing the most severe regional deprivation challenges, followed by Laos. Cambodia records moderate vulnerability levels, while Mainland China, Thailand, and Mongolia demonstrate the strongest performance in addressing fundamental developmental requirements.

Vietnam falls in the mid-range with mixed outcomes across indicators. Inequalities across East Asia are driven by a combination of factors, including unequal access to education and healthcare, limited livelihood opportunities, and uneven service delivery. Rural populations, ethnic minorities, and migrant children are disproportionately affected, facing higher levels of deprivation and exclusion than national averages suggest.

FIGURE 5

Extreme deprivation, 2025

The highest levels of child deprivation in East Asia are found in Myanmar, Laos and North Korea.



Note: This map highlights the areas where World Vision operates programs in East Asia.

Malnutrition remains one of the region's most persistent challenges. Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, and Myanmar record particularly concerning levels of undernourishment, reflecting the enduring impacts of poverty on children's diets. In Myanmar, institutional disruptions since 2021 have further weakened fragile nutrition systems, while North Korea's isolation continues to constrain food availability. World Vision's AIM data provides additional contextual evidence, with household food insecurity ranging from 64% of surveyed households in Cambodia to 18% in Thailand, MCVI findings also reveal nutrition transitions in countries such as Mainland China and Mongolia. In Mainland China, rising rates of children overweight highlight dietary composition challenges emerging as basic food needs are increasingly met.

Access to water, sanitation, and housing reveals inequality across East Asia. Thailand and Mainland China have achieved the highest regional coverage, while significant gaps persist in other countries. World Vision program areas illustrate these challenges: surveys from Laos show only 15% of schools with basic sanitation and 46% with handwashing facilities, and 86% basic water services, constraining safe learning environments.

Myanmar and North Korea record the weakest service access outcomes, though driven by different factors. In Myanmar, conflict and displacement have disrupted health services, schooling and local infrastructure, leaving children with some of the region's lowest outcomes on sanitation and nutrition. In North Korea, the struggling national economy has resulted in shortages in food, safe water and adequate housing. Unlike Myanmar, where conflict has damaged systems, North Korea's vulnerabilities are rooted in closed institutions and the lack of investment in basic services. In both contexts, however, the effect is the same: children remain trapped in environments where essential services are dismantled by instability or withheld by rigid state structures.

Immunization coverage shows mixed regional trends, with some countries achieving substantial gains while others deteriorated. Vietnam recorded the strongest improvement, with a 22% increase in score, while Myanmar rebounded nearly threefold from 2021 declines through coordinated humanitarian efforts. Mongolia and Mainland China also recorded high immunisation scores of 0.94, though Mainland China slipped slightly from its earlier perfect score, decreasing by 6%. Both countries maintain relatively strong child survival outcomes, reflecting robust national health systems. However, rural and remote communities continue to face barriers, similarly to those in rapidly expanding urban areas. Children in Thailand benefit from stable access to immunisation and record the region's highest survival score, reflecting the strength of consistent, broad-based service delivery. However, immunization gains do not automatically translate into broader child survival improvements where poverty and system fragility persist. World Vision program-level data showed that care-seeking for childhood pneumonia reaching 92% in Myanmar, while effective diarrhoea treatment remains low at 25% in Vietnam, indicating uneven service utilization and quality.

Educational outcomes remain largely stagnant, with structural barriers limiting progress across much of

the region. Cambodia records the lowest expected years of schooling regionally, driven by rural poverty and infrastructure limitations. Laos and Vietnam show minimal progress since 2021, constrained by geographic remoteness, ethnic divisions, and gender expectations that particularly affect girls' completion of secondary education. Mongolia and Mainland China sit in the middle of the region, with expected years of schooling scores at 0.55. Mongolia's nomadic and rural households face barriers to accessing schools, while in Mainland China, children of rural migrants often lack equal access to urban education. Thailand performs best, though its score is only marginally higher than in 2021, reflecting persistent inequality.⁴ Early learning foundations show significant gaps. World Vision project data indicating that only 19% of surveyed children in Laos have access to reading materials at home, pointing to deficits that compound later educational challenges.

Extreme Discrimination

East Asia shows worsening discrimination patterns since 2021. Laos, Cambodia, Mainland China, and Myanmar face the highest discrimination levels. Mongolia recorded the strongest results, with formal systems showing fewer restrictions. Thailand is the only country in the region to record a modest positive overall trend in this domain since 2021. Most other countries experienced deterioration, with Cambodia showing the steepest decline, while Mainland China, Mongolia, Laos, and Myanmar recorded smaller reductions.

According to UNICEF, out-of-school rates for lower secondary education ranged from 7% for girls and 3% for boys in Thailand to 35% for both genders in Laos, and 17% for girls and 5% for boys in Cambodia, highlighting persistent gender and regional disparities in access to education.⁵

Figure 6 shows that levels of extreme discrimination in East Asia are higher than those observed in Latin America and the Rest of the World. This suggests that, despite East Asia's relatively strong overall performance in other domains, significant disparities remain in areas linked to exclusion and unequal treatment.

Educational exclusion represents a concerning trend, with girls' school participation declining across multiple countries. Cambodia experienced the sharpest deterioration with 12% increase in the score of girls out of school, while Thailand and Laos recorded smaller setbacks. These patterns reflect how economic pressures and climate-related disruptions push girls from classrooms, particularly affecting secondary education completion. Even countries showing marginal improvements, such as Mongolia, continue to face structural barriers that limit girls' educational access in remote and rural areas.

Trends in religious freedom vary across the region, with some countries experiencing shifts in the regulatory environment affecting religious practices. These divergent trends reflect varying institutional and social dynamics, with tolerance frameworks responding differently to domestic contexts and governance approaches.

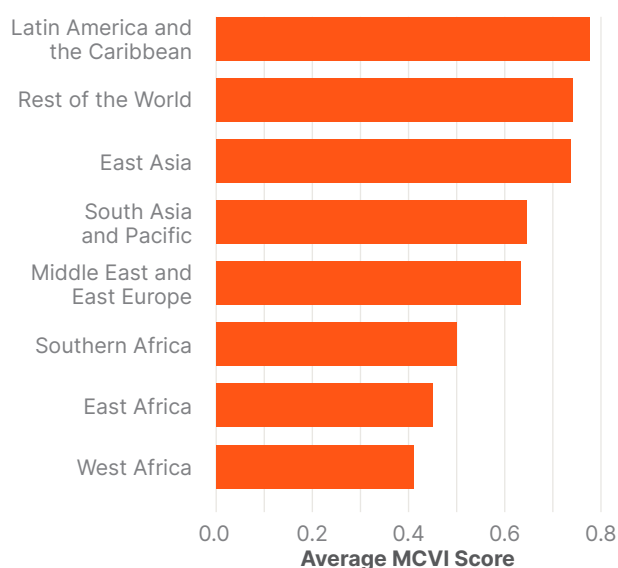
4. Educational outcome indicators reflect coverage among citizens and do not account for stateless populations or undocumented migrant families who may be excluded from civil registration systems and official enrollment records.

5. UNICEF. Gender Disparities in Education. New York: United Nations Children's Fund, 2024. <https://data.unicef.org/topic/gender/gender-disparities-in-education/>.

FIGURE 6

Extreme discrimination, 2025

Levels of discrimination and exclusion remain higher in East Asia than in the Rest of the World.



COVID-19 disproportionately affected girls and young women, and some countries are still dealing with the consequences. Persistent gaps still affect millions of children's access to legal identity and essential services. Mongolia and Thailand maintain near-universal coverage of female birth registration, while Cambodia and Laos continue to show registration gaps for girls⁶. North Korea experienced a 4% deterioration, highlighting how systemic documentation challenges compound children's exclusion from basic rights. AIM data reveals weak civic engagement channels in project areas, with only 24% of Cambodian and 17% of Myanmar households reporting having feedback mechanisms with service providers, indicating limited participatory pathways for addressing service concerns.

Child development and disability protection show limited regional progress, with stable indicators likely reflecting measurement gaps rather than genuine improvements. While development scores vary from strong performance in Laos to moderate outcomes elsewhere, disability inclusion metrics remain concerning across the region. The apparent stability in abuse indicators for children with disabilities may mask systemic under-reporting, suggesting that protective systems lack adequate monitoring and response mechanisms for this vulnerable population.

Exposure to Violence and Abuse

Despite modest improvements in some indicators, overall exposure to violence and abuse has worsened, with the regional score declining by 0.8% between 2021 and

2025. Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos demonstrate the highest vulnerability levels in this domain, while the largest deteriorations since 2021 occurred in Myanmar and Thailand.

Violent discipline remains deeply entrenched, affecting children across the region. Cambodia reports 66% of children 1-14 years old experiencing violent discipline, Vietnam 72%, North Korea 59%, and Myanmar shows the most concerning regional outcomes at 77%.⁷ World Vision's AIM data shows similar patterns, with violent discipline affecting 60% of surveyed children in Cambodia and 58% in Mongolia. These risks intersect with broader community violence, with homicide rates elevated in Myanmar and Thailand, despite East Asia recording lower lethal violence than other regions. At the same time, conflict risks, adolescent fertility and homicide rates remain low in North Korea.⁸

Child marriage represents another persistent challenge, with minimal progress since 2021. Laos faces the most severe outcomes in this indicator, followed by Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand, demonstrating how poverty and gender norms sustain early marriage practices across mainland Southeast Asia. These patterns connect directly to elevated adolescent fertility rates in the same countries. By contrast, countries like Mainland China and Mongolia benefit from stronger social and institutional protective frameworks, which insulate them from broader regional trends.

Displacement shows the most significant deterioration in this domain. Myanmar recorded a 24% increase in score for forced displacement between 2021 and 2025, reflecting increased instability and conflict following the 2021 change in governance. Thailand experienced secondary impacts, with a 19% deterioration linked to cross-border pressures. Mongolia faces displacement pressures from environmental factors, particularly *dzuds* (harsh winters following summer droughts) that devastate livestock and force rural-urban migration. When families lose herds, they often migrate, either into urban centres like Ulaanbaatar or across borders, increasing displacement risks for children. Mongolia's children are not heavily exposed to conflict, with a 2025 score of 0.87, but harsh climatic shocks remain a central driver of displacement and child vulnerability. Conflict-related risks are limited in Mainland China; however, millions of children continue to face exposure through environmentally driven displacement.⁹ These movements in Mainland China are typically managed through institutional emergency response systems, which differ from conflict-related displacement in both their causes and their response mechanisms.

6. Birth registration data reflect coverage among citizens only and do not account for stateless populations or children of migrant families who may be excluded from civil registration systems.

7. World Bank. Adolescent Fertility Rate (Births per 1,000 Women Ages 15–19). World Bank Gender Data Portal. <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/indicator/sp-ado-tfrt/> <https://data.who.int/indicators/i/60A0E76/361734E>; World Health Organization (WHO). Homicide Rate Indicator. WHO Data. <https://data.who.int/indicators/i/60A0E76/361734E>.

8. World Bank. Adolescent Fertility Rate (Births per 1,000 Women Ages 15–19). World Bank Gender Data Portal. <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/indicator/sp-ado-tfrt/> <https://data.who.int/indicators/i/60A0E76/361734E>; World Health Organization (WHO). Homicide Rate Indicator. WHO Data. <https://data.who.int/indicators/i/60A0E76/361734E>.

9. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). China. IDMC Country Information. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/China/>.

Environmental Exposure

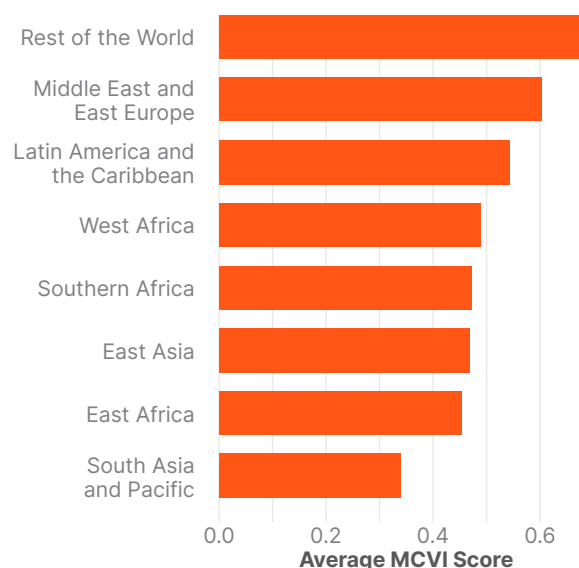
Natural disasters now drive significant displacement across Asia Pacific, with East Asia experiencing severe impacts as part of this broader regional crisis. In 2024, an estimated 24 million people were forced from their homes by climate related shocks across the region, accounting for more than half of global disaster displacement.¹⁰ Children are bearing the brunt: compared to their grandparents, they are six times more likely to experience climate-related disasters, as floods, typhoons, landslides and droughts increase in frequency and severity.¹¹ In the coming decades, riverine floods alone could displace up to 96 million children globally, with cyclones and storm surges affecting millions more.¹²

For East Asia, this is not a distant scenario but a daily reality, eroding children's security and threatening long-term development gains. The lived impacts are stark. In late 2024, Southeast Asia was hit by monsoon floods and landslides that displaced hundreds of thousands, forcing thousands of children in Thailand into evacuation centres.¹³ In Mongolia, the 2023–24 summer drought and severe winter was among the harshest in decades, cutting off rural communities, collapsing incomes and leaving children isolated, malnourished and at risk of dropping out of school.¹⁴ These crises expose the layered vulnerability of children: beyond the immediate loss of homes and livelihoods, disasters fracture education, undermine nutrition and intensify psychosocial stress. As shown in Figure 7, East Asia ranks third highest globally for environmental exposure, with only South Asia and the Pacific, and East Africa facing worse environmental risks for children. Mainland China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and North Korea register the highest regional vulnerability levels, where poverty and weak infrastructure compound children's exposure to deprivation, health risks and displacement. Mongolia demonstrates lower vulnerability, despite challenges linked to rural isolation and pollution. AIM household-level project data highlights stress in the face of these hazards: despite 91% of

FIGURE 7

Environmental exposure by region, 2025

East Asia records the third-highest environmental exposure globally.



surveyed households in Laos reporting recovery to pre-shock levels, food insecurity remains at 47%, indicating that recovery to pre-shock status does not necessarily equate to nutritional security.

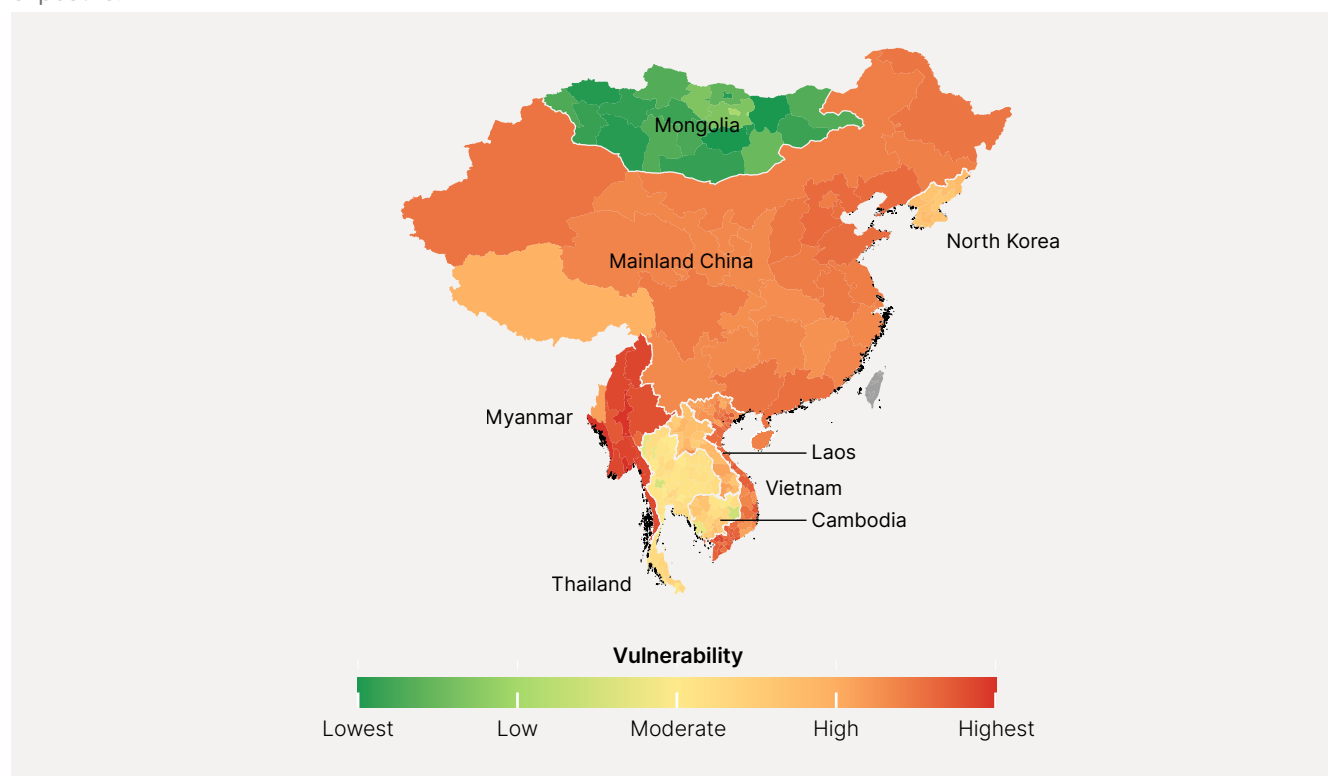
As shown in Figure 8, in 2025 Mainland China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and North Korea, register the highest levels of environmental risk in the region. These pressures are compounded by poverty and weak infrastructure, which limit children's ability to cope with hazards, leaving millions exposed to health risks and displacement. Mongolia stands out as a regional outlier, recording lower levels of vulnerability, though rural isolation and pollution present significant risks.

10. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. "Climate-Related Disasters Force Millions from Their Homes in Asia Pacific, but Local Action Offers Hope." IFRC, August 20, 2025. Accessed September 7, 2025. <https://www.ifrc.org/article/climate-related-disasters-force-millions-their-homes-asia-pacific-local-action-offers-hope..>
11. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. "Climate-Related Disasters Force Millions from Their Homes in Asia Pacific, but Local Action Offers Hope." IFRC, August 20, 2025. Accessed September 7, 2025. <https://www.ifrc.org/article/climate-related-disasters-force-millions-their-homes-asia-pacific-local-action-offers-hope..>
12. UNICEF East Asia and Pacific. "Children in East Asia and Pacific Hardest Hit by Climate Crisis." UNICEF, May 24, 2023. Accessed September 7, 2025. <https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/children-eap-hardest-hit-climate-crisis>.
13. UNICEF. East Asia and Pacific Region Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3: Typhoon Yagi and Floods, 02–21 October 2024. ReliefWeb, October 24, 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/viet-nam/unicef-east-asia-and-pacific-region-humanitarian-situation-report-no-3-typhoon-yagi-and-floods-02-21-october-2024..>
14. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. "Mongolia: Helping Herders Survive the Iron Dzud." IFRC, February 14, 2024. <https://www.ifrc.org/article/mongolia-helping-herders-survive-iron-dzud>.

FIGURE 8

Environmental exposure in East Asia, 2025

Mainland China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and North Korea, register high levels of risk linked to environmental exposure.



Note: This map highlights the areas where World Vision operates programs in East Asia.

Poverty, weak governance, and demographic pressures systematically amplify climate-related disruption in the region. Myanmar's 11% deterioration in domain score reflects how repeated flooding, compounded by service delivery challenges, has eroded resilience and recovery capacity. Laos experienced a similar decline, as recurrent floods overwhelmed fragile infrastructure and household coping mechanisms. Cambodia demonstrates cyclical patterns of recovery and loss in the face of seasonal storms, highlighting how temporary gains remain vulnerable to subsequent shocks. AIM data provides important context to these results: in Laos, 91% of surveyed households reported recovering from a disaster, compared to 61% in Cambodia. However, recovery to pre-shock levels does not necessarily translate into nutritional security or sustained well-being, underscoring the limits of short-term recovery as a proxy for resilience.

Children across East Asia remain critically exposed to climate-related shocks and hazards, with disaster preparedness systems showing limited capacity to protect vulnerable populations. Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar record the lowest regional scores, reflecting limited infrastructure and safety nets to buffer children from extreme weather conditions, including floods, droughts, storms, and heatwaves. Mainland China shows the highest direct exposure to environmental shocks, affecting its large child population, while Mongolia maintains stronger protective capacity. Regional progress has been uneven since 2021, with Mainland China, Mongolia, and Vietnam

achieving improvements, while Myanmar and Laos deteriorated.

Housing disparities add to environmental vulnerabilities, particularly in urban areas where rapid population growth outpaces infrastructure development. Slum prevalence is lowest in Thailand and Mongolia, while Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar face substantially higher rates. Cambodia shows concerning urban vulnerability, with over 42% of urban populations living in slum conditions, according to MCVI. Mainland China faces different housing challenges through affordability constraints that limit working-class access to adequate housing despite minimal slum prevalence.¹⁵ These urban vulnerabilities expose children to compounding risks from inadequate shelter, limited services, and increased pollution exposure.

Resilience

As shown in Figure 8, East Asia demonstrates mixed institutional resilience patterns. Mongolia, Thailand, and Mainland China record the strongest regional outcomes, supported by relatively stable governance frameworks and institutional shock-absorption capacity. Myanmar and Cambodia face ongoing resilience challenges, with institutional capacity and service delivery systems still developing. These limitations can heighten children's vulnerability during periods of crisis. Laos and North Korea also display significant institutional fragility, though in varying intensity and driven by different structural

15. Liu, Shouying, and Yue Zhang. "Cities without slums? China's land regime and dual-track urbanization." ScienceDirect. June 31, 2020. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0264275118313477>.

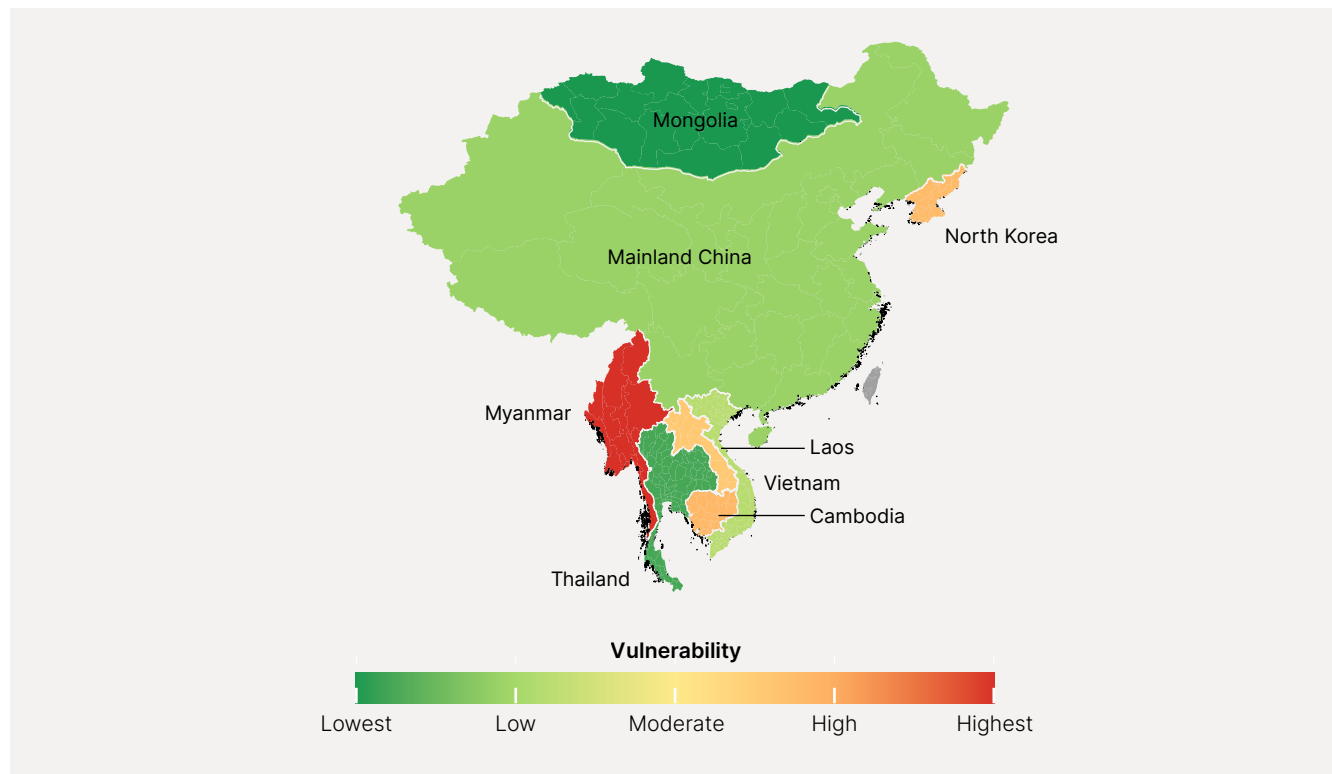
constraints on governance and resource distribution. Regional resilience deteriorated between 2021 and 2025, driven primarily by Myanmar's governance effectiveness falling by more than 20% and resource distribution equity dropping by over 30%. These trends reflect systematic weakening of governance frameworks during prolonged instability. Cambodia has shown mixed progress, with modest improvements in governance while moving at a slower pace in promoting transparency and accountability, while Mainland China maintains strong service delivery

despite marginal governance effectiveness declines. Thailand and Mongolia demonstrate relatively stable institutional performance, though transparency and corruption challenges persist across most regional contexts. AIM data reveals uneven social capital, with collective efficacy reaching 90-94% in Vietnam and Myanmar, yet community cohesion remaining weaker, particularly in Myanmar, where only 48% is reported compared to stronger outcomes elsewhere.

FIGURE 9

Resilience in East Asia, 2025

Resilience is the lowest in Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and North Korea.



Note: This map highlights the areas where World Vision operates programs in East Asia.

BOX 2

Positive Peace and Resilience

The MCVI Resilience domain draws directly from the Institute for Economics & Peace's Positive Peace framework, incorporating all eight Pillars of Positive Peace as core indicators. This alignment reflects the established understanding that societal resilience and child protection outcomes are fundamentally interconnected.

Peace extends beyond the absence of violence to encompass the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain flourishing societies. The Institute for Economics & Peace developed the Positive Peace Index (PPI), which measures these foundational elements through 24 indicators grouped into eight Pillars of Positive Peace: Well-Functioning Government, Sound Business Environment, Acceptance of the Rights of Others, Good Relations with Neighbours, Free Flow of Information, High Levels of Human Capital, Low Levels of Corruption, and Equitable Distribution of Resources.

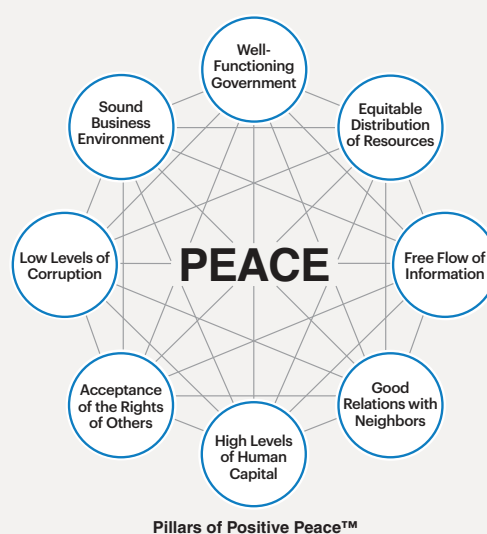
Countries with higher Positive Peace demonstrate greater resilience, stronger economies, better ecological performance, higher well-being, and stronger social cohesion. These societies are less burdened by violence and political instability, achieve higher productivity, better information access, and more effective governance while being less affected by corruption.

The resilience dimension is particularly critical for child protection. Social systems with higher Positive Peace offer more effective protection against political, environmental, and economic shocks, recover faster from crises, and develop stronger coping strategies

for future challenges. High-resilience societies also leverage opportunities from technological innovation and economic transformation, creating environments where children's potential can flourish even amid external pressures.

This framework demonstrates why resilience serves as a foundational domain in child vulnerability assessment. Societies with stronger Positive Peace indicators consistently provide better protection, services, and opportunities for children, while those with weak institutional foundations struggle to safeguard child well-being during crises.

FIGURE 10

Positive Peace Pillars

Between 2021 and 2025, East Asia made its strongest gains in human capital and free flow of information, alongside moderate improvements in rights acceptance and business environment. However, these gains were offset by steep declines in equitable distribution of resources, well-functioning government, and corruption control. The pattern highlights how institutional fragility can erode resilience even as social and human capital improve. Program social capital indicators are uneven: collective efficacy is as high as 90–94% in Vietnam and Myanmar, but community cohesion is weaker (48% in Myanmar), and hope for the future among adolescents diverges sharply, 15% in Myanmar compared to 89% in Mongolia, signaling uneven psychosocial resilience.

Cambodia recorded the strongest gains in acceptance of the rights of others since 2021 with over 10% improvement, followed by Mainland China, North Korea, and Vietnam which recorded moderate increases in tolerance indicators. Mongolia maintained relatively stable high performance with minimal change, while Myanmar showed marginal improvement from a low baseline. However, Laos and

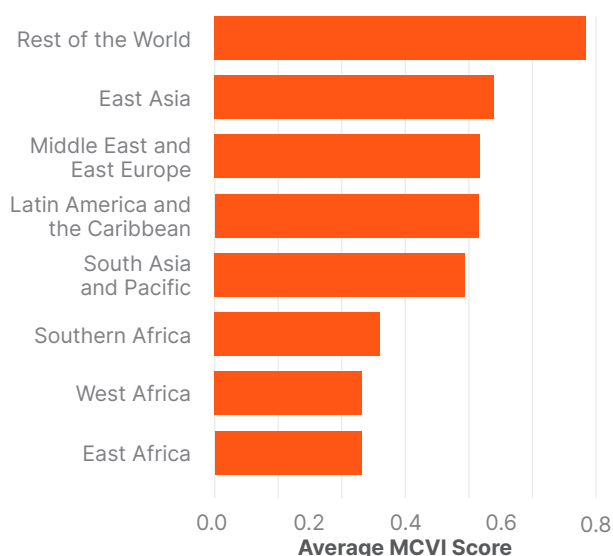
Thailand experienced declines, with Thailand showing nearly 4% deterioration in its acceptance scores. These divergent trends reflect varying institutional and social dynamics across the region, where tolerance and rights acceptance indicators respond differently to domestic contexts and policy environments.

Information flow and civic freedoms show similarly divergent regional patterns. Vietnam achieved substantial gains, with information access improving by over 14% since 2021. Others rights acceptance indicator also improved in Mainland China, Cambodia, and North Korea, though within broader structural limitations. Mongolia and Cambodia have experienced a slower pace of progress, with some limitations in access to information, while the near-zero scores for North Korea suggest limited access to independent media and civic engagement opportunities. These patterns reflect varying approaches to information governance that directly shape children's access to knowledge and opportunities for civic engagement.

FIGURE 11

Resilience by region, 2025

Resilience in East Asia is higher than in other World Vision regions but remains below the Rest of the World average.



Resource equity, which measures how fairly wealth, opportunities, and essential services such as education and healthcare are distributed across the population, shows the deterioration in equitable distribution despite improvements in human capital. Vietnam and Thailand strengthened education and health investments boosting human capital development, while Mainland China sustained strong existing outcomes. Yet, these gains have not translated into equitable resource access. Vietnam recorded a decline of more than 20% in resource equity and Myanmar suffered an even steeper deterioration. Mongolia achieved modest improvements in resource distribution but continues to face business environment constraints limiting broad-based growth. Governments across the region are struggling to ensure that development gains reach all children and communities equally.

World Vision program areas reveal complex social capital patterns highlighting resilience variations at the community level. While collective efficacy remains strong in several contexts, community cohesion varies more widely, and adolescents' future outlook differs dramatically, from 15% in Myanmar to 89% in Mongolia. These

psychosocial resilience indicators suggest that institutional challenges create distinct community-level impacts, affecting children's immediate well-being and long-term development prospects in ways aggregate resilience scores may not fully capture.

Institutional capacity and transparency indicators represent the most significant structural vulnerabilities across the region. Myanmar has faced significant challenges in institutional capacity since 2021, with equitable resource distribution falling by over 30%, which have impacted service delivery and child well-being. These trends reflect a systematic weakening of governance frameworks and institutional effectiveness. Cambodia has seen modest improvements in government effectiveness, while certain governance challenges remain, affecting institutional credibility. Mainland China maintains strong service delivery capacity while registering declines in governance effectiveness metrics, and Thailand shows marginal weakening in institutional performance indicators. Mongolia exhibits relatively stable governance outcomes compared to regional peers, though persistent challenges in transparency and corruption control remain evident across the region. Civic freedoms and the free flow of information show equally mixed trends. Indicators show improvements in rights acceptance in several countries, though broader structural factors continue to influence the extent of these gains. Mongolia and Cambodia also recorded declines in information freedoms since 2021. By contrast, Vietnam recorded steady gains, with information access improving by more than 14% over the period. Laos also improved slightly from a low base but continues to lag behind most regional peers.

Human capital and resource distribution highlight the uneven relationship between service delivery and equity. Investments in education and health have lifted human capital in Vietnam and Thailand, while sustaining already strong outcomes in Mainland China. Yet these gains have not been matched by equitable access to resources. Vietnam's indicators on equitable resource distribution have shown a decline since 2021, highlighting the need for continued focus on inclusive development, while Myanmar experienced an even steeper deterioration. Mongolia achieved modest improvements in equitable resource distribution, but its business environment remains weak, limiting opportunities for broad-based growth. By contrast, Mainland China and Thailand sustain relatively strong economic systems, though both remain constrained by governance and rights-based challenges.

“When I was little, I lived with my grandmother because my parents had passed away. Some people in my village looked down on me. They called me an orphan and said I was poor and helpless. I didn’t feel welcome anywhere. Sometimes, when other children were invited to meetings or village activities, I was left out.”

((A 17-year-old girl in Cambodia who live with her elderly grandmother))



Implications for Policy and Programming

Disaster-driven Displacement

The MCVI's Environmental Exposure domain measures children's risk from climate-related shocks, natural hazards, and unsafe urban environments. It captures exposure to floods, droughts, storms, and heatwaves alongside the quality of housing and the share of children living in informal settlements. The 2025 results show that environmental vulnerability in East Asia is among the highest globally, third only to South Asia and East Africa, confirming that climate and environmental stress are key drivers of child vulnerability in the region.

These findings illustrate that environmental shocks rarely occur in isolation. They interact with other domains of the MCVI, particularly Exposure to Violence and Abuse, as natural disasters and displacement heighten risks of exploitation, child labour, and interrupted education. This interconnectedness reflects the multidimensional nature of vulnerability: a flood is not only an environmental event but also a trigger for economic and psychosocial strain that undermines children's long-term development.

Across East Asia, this dynamic is clear. Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam show the highest levels of climate-related displacement, where poverty and weak infrastructure magnify the impact of recurrent floods and storms. In Mongolia, climatic extremes such as dzuds and droughts continue to isolate rural households, while in Mainland China, large-scale internal migration highlights the demographic pressures of managing environmental change at scale.

To address these layered risks, policy efforts must go beyond immediate disaster relief. Child-sensitive disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation systems should be embedded into education, housing, and social protection. Strengthening early-warning mechanisms, building resilient schools and shelters, and ensuring displaced children retain access to education, nutrition, and psychosocial support are critical steps toward reducing long-term vulnerability. Sustained investment in these areas will determine whether environmental shocks remain cyclical crises or become opportunities to build resilience and secure children's well-being across East Asia.

TABLE 1

Action Pathways for Strengthening Resilience to Disaster-Driven Displacement

Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
Expand child-friendly spaces in evacuation centres to provide psychosocial support and safe environments during displacement. In contexts such as Mongolia, rapid deployment of emergency cash transfers can help households affected by drought and harsh winters protect children from malnutrition and interrupted schooling.	Develop and pilot climate-resilient housing in high-risk countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos to withstand recurrent floods and storms. Strengthen child-sensitive early-warning systems in countries such as Vietnam and Myanmar by embedding disaster preparedness into school routines and community-based structures, ensuring children are not left behind during sudden shocks.	Support institutionalising child-focused social protection systems across the region so that displaced children retain guaranteed access to healthcare, education, and psychosocial services. Support integrating climate risk assessments into national education planning, ensuring that schools are designed or rebuilt with the capacity to withstand recurrent natural disasters, thereby breaking cycles of vulnerability.

Urban Environmental Risks

The MCVI’s Environmental Exposure domain also captures the growing risks children face in urban settings, where environmental degradation intersects with gaps in essential services. Urban vulnerability is multidimensional, driven not only by air pollution and heat stress but also by inequities in housing, healthcare, and infrastructure. In several countries, including Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, the MCVI highlights the high proportion of children living in informal or slum settlements, where limited access to clean water, sanitation, and safe housing compounds exposure to environmental hazards. While disasters often draw immediate attention, environmental pressures in cities are more gradual yet equally damaging, eroding children’s health, learning, and development over time.

These challenges are closely linked to service delivery. Rapid urbanisation has outpaced the capacity of many cities to provide safe housing, adequate cooling, clean

air, and accessible healthcare. As a result, environmental exposure in urban areas reflects not just climatic conditions but also social and institutional inequalities. Addressing these risks requires integrated approaches that combine urban planning, public health, and child protection. Expanding investment in child-sensitive infrastructure, green spaces, and early-warning systems can help reduce long-term exposure while improving quality of life for children growing up in East Asia’s rapidly changing cities.

Rising urban temperatures, intensified by the “urban heat island” effect, have left children increasingly vulnerable to dehydration, malnutrition, and reduced cognitive performance in schools lacking adequate cooling infrastructure.¹⁶ Heat-related illnesses are projected to rise across East Asia’s cities, threatening both child health and educational outcomes. Unlike sudden disasters, these risks are incremental and less visible but carry equally long-term costs.

TABLE 2

Action Pathways for Strengthening Urban Resilience and Service Delivery

Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
Expand mobile health services in cities such as Hanoi and Bangkok to provide diagnosis and treatment for children suffering from air-pollution, related respiratory illnesses. Schools can also adopt simple cooling strategies, like shaded courtyards and low-cost fans, to reduce the immediate impact of rising urban heat on children’s learning.	Support more structural reforms in urban centres. In Mainland China, stricter enforcement of air quality regulations is needed, with indicators that specifically capture child health impacts. In similar hubs, investment in “green schoolyards” and urban vegetation would simultaneously reduce heat stress, improve local air quality, and create healthier child-friendly spaces.	Support reimaging city planning through child-sensitive design. Schools, clinics, and community centres should be built or upgraded to withstand rising temperatures and high pollution levels. At the metropolitan scale, cross-sectoral climate–health frameworks in mega-cities such as Shanghai and Bangkok can institutionalise sustainable protection for future generations, embedding resilience into long-term urban development.

Ethnic and Religious Exclusion

The region continues to be affected by ethnic and religious exclusion, which remains one of the most persistent drivers of child vulnerability in East Asia. The MCVI shows that these forms of exclusion intersect with other dimensions, particularly Resilience, Discrimination, and Exposure to Violence and Abuse, as marginalised groups often experience limited access to services, displacement, and weakened institutional protection. Birth registration remains a critical barrier to children’s rights across the region, with the majority of unregistered children under five belonging to ethnic or religious minorities. Without legal identity, many are denied education, healthcare, and legal protection, increasing their risk of statelessness and exploitation.

Exclusion manifests in diverse ways across East Asia, from the denial of formal identification and nationality for minority or displaced groups, to unequal access to quality education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. In some contexts, ethnic and linguistic minorities remain excluded from public life due to cultural and language barriers, while in others, displacement and weak governance deepen isolation and insecurity. These overlapping disadvantages demonstrate how social exclusion reinforces multidimensional child vulnerability, limiting access to rights and opportunities and constraining resilience across generations.

16. MIT Climate Portal, “Urban Heat Islands,” MIT Climate Portal, accessed October 15, 2025, <https://climate.mit.edu/explainers/urban-heat-islands>.

TABLE 3

Action Pathways for Promoting Social Inclusion and Equal Access

Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
Expand mobile birth registration campaigns in remote provinces of Cambodia and Laos to further increase opportunities for children from marginalised groups to gain legal identity and access to essential services.	Support inclusive education models. For example, bilingual education programmes in Cambodia's Ratanak Kiri province could reduce dropout rates among minority children, while similar approaches in Laos can improve equity in access to schooling.	Support universal birth registration for all children, regardless of ethnicity or religion, through national legislation and enforcement. Education systems should also institutionalise support for minority languages and cultural traditions, ensuring that access to schools and basic services is accompanied by a commitment to inclusive participation.

Gender-based Vulnerabilities

The MCVI identifies gender as an important factor shaping patterns of child vulnerability, spanning multiple domains. Among the groups most at risk are girls, whose outcomes are influenced by early marriage, adolescent fertility, and barriers to continuing education. These factors contribute to reduced opportunities for learning, participation, and long-term well-being. While gender disparities are not uniform across East Asia, the data show that progress for girls often lags behind broader development gains.

These vulnerabilities are reinforced by structural and social conditions rather than deliberate discrimination. In many contexts, exclusion arises from unequal access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities, as well as from social expectations that limit participation in community or leadership roles. Such barriers restrict agency and resilience, leaving many girls less able to benefit from improvements in services and institutional support. Addressing these patterns requires strengthening inclusive systems and ensuring that progress in development translates into equal outcomes for all children.

TABLE 4

Action Pathways for Promoting Gender Inclusion

Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
Focus on support in keeping girls in school and preventing early marriage. In Cambodia, governments and NGOs could provide direct cash stipends to families of school-aged girls to offset costs such as uniforms and textbooks. In Laos, local school authorities and health workers could run door-to-door outreach in rural villages to identify at-risk girls and connect families with education and health services.	Support expanding access to safe and supportive education and health services. In Mongolia and Myanmar, governments could build and fund safe boarding schools in rural areas to allow girls from remote communities to continue secondary education. In Vietnam, the health system could strengthen adolescent clinics that provide contraception, counselling, and reproductive health education.	Support institutionalising gender-sensitive policies and funding. Governments should allocate dedicated resources in national budgets for girls' education and health, ensuring scholarships, facilities, and reproductive health services are sustainably financed. A regional monitoring body could be established to track adolescent fertility and child marriage, holding governments accountable and coordinating joint programmes to reduce these rates.

World Vision Response

The MCVI highlights how child vulnerability in East Asia spans multiple, interlinked domains, ranging from deprivation and discrimination to exposure to violence, environmental stress, and varying levels of resilience. While the scale and drivers of vulnerability differ across countries, such as disaster-related displacement in Myanmar, cycles of poverty and migration in Cambodia, and climate-induced food insecurity in Laos, the challenges are deeply multidimensional. These findings informed the thematic priorities outlined above, which identify the areas where sustained investment can make the most meaningful difference to children's well-being.

The following World Vision response illustrates how targeted action across these priority areas, through emergency relief, strengthened social protection, and community resilience, can address the complex vulnerabilities revealed by the MCVI and help build lasting stability and opportunity for children across East Asia. With continued investment, these interventions can be scaled to protect more children, strengthen families, and build a better future for children.



Adaptive Earthquake Response Improves Recovery in Myanmar

When a powerful earthquake struck Myanmar's Mandalay Region, lives and learning were shaken overnight. Aung's family home collapsed, leaving his wife injured and the family sleeping under tarps for weeks. With income lost and debts mounting, they struggled to pay for medical care and their children's schooling.

Schools also suffered. In Amarapura Township, an ECCD school supported by World Vision and the community collapsed while children were sleeping inside. Teacher Yin Oo shielded the children as dust and rubble filled the room until neighbors rescued them miraculously, no one was hurt. In nearby Aung Myay Thar Zan Township, ten-year-old Wai lost her library and reading club, disrupting her learning and leaving her lonely at home.

With support from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), World Vision, together with the partners LIFE and MBC, has provided multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA)

to families and children affected by the earthquake in the Aungmyaythazan and Kyaukse townships of Mandalay. Multipurpose cash assistance helped families like Aung's cover urgent medical costs, repair homes, and pay school fees. At the same time, World Vision established child-friendly libraries to restore education and provide psychosocial support so children like Wai could read, learn, and recover emotionally in safe spaces.

Rapid funding enabled World Vision to scale its response, providing live-saving relief assistance to children and families affected by earthquake while laying the groundwork for longer-term rebuilding of homes, schools, and community systems. These emergency interventions provided vital lifelines and created a foundation for sustainable recovery and future resilience. As of 22 September, World Vision Myanmar has reached 458,216 people, including 145,055 children affected by the earthquake, through its humanitarian efforts.



Investing in Families Secures Education in Cambodia

"I am happy to be back home and in school," says Solang. Fourteen-year-old Solang Kun from Kampong Chhnang province once spent much of her childhood migrating with her parents between Pailin and Battambang to earn a living. Long hours of work collecting pipes for a factory from dawn to late afternoon—left her undernourished and far behind in school.

Her mother, Sokheng Hut, recalls years of hardship: constant debt, food shortages and the need to borrow from neighbours. "Sometimes I had no food and my kid was sick," she says.

In 2022, Sokheng's family joined World Vision's Graduation Based Social Protection (GBSP) project, implemented with Cambodian government agencies, UNDP and funded by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The family received chickens, materials for a small poultry farm, and training in life and technical skills, covering financial literacy, health and nutrition.

Within two years their income and food security improved. "If my children are sick, I can sell chickens. The chickens make my family better," Sokheng explains. Most importantly, the family stopped migrating so Solang could return to school, even though she is behind her peers. "I am happy! When I have knowledge, I can get a good job to support my parents," she says. Local leaders praise the project for reducing migration, improving livelihoods and helping children stay in school. Authorities hope it can be expanded to support more poor families.

Sokheng now watches her daughter head to class with renewed hope. "I want my kids to go to school because I am not educated. I will fight for my three children and encourage them to study," she says.



Community Support Builds Resilience and Food Security in Laos

In Lao PDR, 70–80% of the population relies on agriculture. According to the World Bank, approximately 53.8 climate-related deaths per million population will be linked to a lack of food availability in Lao PDR by 2050.¹⁷

In PakOu District, the Thongkhoun family struggles with declining rice production caused by droughts and shortened crop cycles. Normally harvesting 80 bags of rice a year, drought years reduce yields to 30 bags, creating a two-month food deficit. To compensate, the family collects and sells Non-Timber Forest Products, making up to ten forest trips per month.

Thongkhoun, a 45-year-old father from the Khmu tribe, worries about providing his children with education amid these uncertainties. The entire community faces water scarcity, crop diseases, and landslides, which jeopardize both livelihoods and safety. “Thanks to the Community Preparedness Plan, we have learned to safeguard our children, livestock, and crops,” he says.

World Vision supports families through sustainable programs improving nutrition, livelihoods, climate-smart agriculture, small animal rearing, and home gardening, helping communities generate income and access nutritious food. Through Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), 25 Village Disaster Management

Committees have strengthened disaster preparedness, including hazard mapping and emergency planning.

Thongkhoun's family now practices home gardening and bio-fertilizer production, enhancing food security and income. These initiatives empower families to adapt to climate challenges, safeguard their children's future, and build resilient, sustainable livelihoods.

17. World Bank. Climate Risk Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic. Washington, DC: World Bank Group, 2021. <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/15505-Lao%20PDR%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf>.

World Vision East Asia: Turning Evidence To Impact

Grounding Our Work in Research and Evidence

At World Vision, we believe that every decision, program, and policy should be grounded in data and lived experiences of those we serve.

Here in East Asia, we partner with academic institutions, government agencies, local organizations, and subject-matter experts to generate evidence and actionable insights to strengthen programming and policy influence across the region.

Our commitment to evidence-based advocacy is translated into tangible impact, contributing to 189 policy changes across East Asia in 2024 alone, driving systemic transformation for long-term change.

World Vision in East Asia

For 75 years, World Vision has stood alongside communities in East Asia, building trust, deepening partnerships, and responding to the evolving needs of children and families. Operating across Cambodia, Mainland China, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam, we are recognized as a trusted development and humanitarian partner committed to accountability, sustainability and impact.

Our approach is long-term and integrated, ensuring that interventions across sectors are interconnected

and responsive to the evolving needs of children and communities. Our programs span multiple sectors including child protection and participation, education, health and nutrition, livelihoods and resilience, and climate action. World Vision also supports communities to prepare for and recover from disasters through robust emergency response and disaster risk reduction efforts. Through evidence-based programming, faith-driven values, and local to global advocacy, World Vision partners with children, families, and communities to create sustainable change and ensure every child can thrive and experience life in all its fullness.

Increasingly, we are focusing resources and programs to address emerging strategic priorities, aligned to the evolving child vulnerabilities in our landscape:

- Adaptation and resilience to climate change – equipping communities to anticipate, withstand, and recover from environmental shocks.
- Food security and sustainable livelihoods – ensuring that families can provide their children through stable household income and regular access to nutritious food.
- Protecting children in the context of migration – strengthening social safety nets to reduce exploitation and other risks and advocating birth registration and access to services for children who migrate.

In 2025, World Vision mobilized USD 110 million to improve the lives of children in East Asia, thanks to the incredible generosity and commitment of our private, institutional, and corporate partners. This support enabled us to reach 5.4 million people through our work across the region, last year including 2.4 million vulnerable children.

Annex

A. Methodology

Background

The primary goal of the Multidimensional Child Vulnerability Index (MCVI) is to track, compare and visualize a variety of child vulnerability measures across the world. This initiative forms part of World Vision's ongoing effort to enhance the scope, targeting and impact of its humanitarian, development, advocacy and peacebuilding programming.

The Index is designed to measure child vulnerability at a subnational level based on five domains:

- Extreme Deprivation
- Extreme Discrimination
- Resilience
- Exposure to Violence and Abuse
- Environmental Exposure

The Index was developed through a collaborative process that combined World Vision's programmatic priorities with established international research on child well-being and data availability at the subnational level. The Index represents the first iteration of this global initiative.

Data Sources and Imputation

The aim of the MCVI has been to collate as much subnational data on child vulnerability globally. While this has been possible in some cases, in others there does not exist a subnational dataset on the indicators. As such a combination of imputations techniques have been used as suggested by the **OECD Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators** (OECD and European Union 2008).

In this Handbook sets out a series of imputation techniques. The MCVI uses the following techniques:

- **Cold deck imputation.** Replacing the missing value with a value from an external source, e.g. from a previous realisation of the same survey.
- **Hot deck imputation.** Filling in blanks cells with individual data, drawn from “similar” responding units. For example, missing values for individual income may be replaced with the income of another respondent with similar characteristics, e.g. age, sex, race, place of residence, family relationships, job, etc.
- **Unconditional imputation:** The sample mean (median, mode) of the recorded values for the given individual indicator replaces the missing values.
- IEP's approach has been to use a preferential series of imputation techniques that sets the existing subnational data in primacy. The imputation techniques to fill in missing data have been, in order of preference:
 1. **Cold Deck Imputation:** Supplement missing subnational data with national level statistics where possible. For additional data gaps, use **hot deck imputation** using a machine learning technique called xgboost to complete the dataset.
 2. **Hot Deck Imputation:** Give missing areas the regional average.
 3. **Unconditional:** Manual assign missing values a set number.

In terms of existing datasets that have been used in the MCVI, Table 1 presents the indicators selected to capture these domains and includes information on their sources and the year of their most recent update.

TABLE 6

The following indicators and sources have been used to construct the MCVI.

Indicator	Subnational Source	National Source	Latest Year
Extreme Deprivation			
Severely Wasted Children	GDL	UNICEF	2023
Overweight Children	GDL	UNICEF	2023
Food Insecurity	IEP	-	2024
Child Mortality	OPHI	-	2023
Drinking Water	OPHI	-	2023
Nutrition	OPHI	World Bank	2023
Sanitation	OPHI	-	2023
Poverty	OPHI	-	2023
Expected Years of Schooling	GDL	UNDP	2023
Housing	OPHI	-	2023
Immunisation	-	WHO, UNICEF	2024
Extreme Discrimination			
Female Birth Registration	-	World Bank	2023
Girls Out of School	-	World Bank	2023
Child Development	-	UNICEF	2024
Abuse of Disabled Children	-	UNICEF	2023
Religious Restrictions	-	Pew	2021
Environmental Exposure			
Climate and Environmental Shocks	-	UNICEF	2023
Natural Disasters	IEP	-	2024
Children Living in Slums	-	UN Habitat	2022
Resilience			
Well-Functioning Government	-	IEP	2024
Sound Business Environment	-	IEP	2024
Equitable Distribution of Resources	-	IEP	2024
Acceptance of the Rights of Others	-	IEP	2024
Good Relations with Neighbours	-	IEP	2024
Free Flow of Information	-	IEP	2024
High Levels of Human Capital	-	IEP	2024
Low Levels of Corruption	-	IEP	2024
Exposure to Violence and Abuse			
Children Exposed to Conflict and Terrorism	ACLED, Terrorism Tracker	-	2024
Child Labour	-	UNICEF	2023
Forcibly Displaced Children	-	UNHCR	2024
Homicide Rate	-	WHO	2021
Child Marriage	-	UNICEF	2023
Adolescent Fertility Rate	-	World Bank	2023
Children in Detention	-	UNICEF	2024
Child Online Safety	-	DQ Institute	2023
Physical Punishment by Caregivers	-	UNICEF	2024

Country Inclusion

Countries have been selected for inclusion in the MCVI using the following three criteria:

- **(1)** The country has a World Vision office OR **(2)** the country is in IEP's Global Peace Index AND **(3)** imputation does not form the significant majority of the information stored on the country.

This process leads to the following countries being excluded due to lack of available data sources: Bahrain, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Singapore.

Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Taiwan were retained in the Index given the presence of World Vision country offices. The imputation process applied to these cases follows the same methodology used for all countries when data are missing; the distinction is that fewer original data sources were available for these two cases.

Banding

In order to aggregate the incommensurable indicators, all indicators have been banded (normalised). This means each indicator is scaled to a score ranging between 0 and 1, relative to the initial global range. Appropriate minimum and maximum values are, therefore, chosen for each indicator so that any values below the minimum are assigned 0 and values above the maximum are assigned 1. All other values are scaled between 0 and 1, equivalent to their position in the original minimum-maximum range.

For example, for the literacy rate indicator, a higher score reflects a more desirable situation. Therefore, in this case, the banding process has assigned the largest data point a value of 1. Conversely, the lowest data point in the indicator has been assigned a value of 0, while all other data are scaled relative to these two points. This process is referred to as forward banding. On the other hand, a lower score in the mortality indicator reflects a less desirable situation. In this case, the data are reverse banded, so the lowest value is assigned 1 while the highest is assigned 0.

An integral part of the banding process is to set appropriate minimum and maximum cut-off values for the banded scores. Some data have a normal distribution and, therefore, outliers can be easily defined as those greater than three standard deviations from the mean. However, other datasets do not follow the bell-curved distribution trend. A number of considerations are, therefore, essential in choosing the appropriate technique: the nature of the data, the distribution, the purpose of the index, the information to be conveyed and so on. When investigating global datasets, very few can be classified as having a normal distribution. The presence of outliers defines the variance, skewing both the minimum and maximum values. To account for this, IEP has set artificial minimum and maximum values to safeguard that results are not too heavily influenced by outliers.

Therefore, for year y , a forward banded score is calculated for indicator i by Equation Equation 1. A reverse banded score is calculated using Equation Equation 2.

$$Banded_i = 1 + 4 \times \frac{V_{g,y} - MinThresh_g}{MaxThresh_g - MinThresh_g} \quad (1)$$

$$Banded_i = 1 + 4 \times \left(1 - \frac{V_{g,y} - MinThresh_g}{MaxThresh_g - MinThresh_g}\right) \quad (2)$$

Where V is the value of is the transformed indicator at area g in year y .

Weighting Indicators and Domains

Within each domain, all indicators are weighted equally, indicating that they together comprise the core features of the respective domain and are equally essential. Similarly, each domain is equally weighted towards the overall score.

Index Scores and MCVI Levels of Vulnerability

Child vulnerability levels are normally classified into five bands based on quantiles of the 2021 baseline data. This approach ensures consistency across years and allows meaningful comparison of trends over time. For this report, results are presented on a gradient scale rather than discrete bands, providing a clearer view of variation in vulnerability across countries.

Urban- Rural Classification

The classification of urban and rural subnational areas was derived using the Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL), a globally consistent dataset developed by the European Commission that maps built-up areas, population density, and settlement types at high spatial resolution. GHSL assigns numerical codes to different settlement classes, ranging from rural areas to dense urban centers. In this analysis, raster values from GHSL were extracted against subnational administrative polygons (GADM Level 1) and reclassified: codes 21 and above were treated as urban, while lower codes indicated rural areas, with water bodies excluded. By aggregating these raster values within each polygon, the proportion of urban pixels was calculated, and regions with more than half their land area classified as urban were labelled "Urban," while the rest were categorized as "Rural." Based on this categorization, separate urban and rural scores for individual indicators and vulnerability domains were calculated at the country level, enabling comparative analysis of child vulnerability patterns across different settlement types.

Identified Issues and Limitations

During the construction of the Index, several data-related challenges were identified that may affect the interpretation of results.

Data Availability

Every effort was made to source the most recent and reliable data for each indicator. However, for some countries or indicators, up-to-date data were not available. In such cases, the most recent datasets were used, which may not fully capture subsequent changes in child vulnerability. This means that the performance of some countries may appear higher or lower than expected, particularly where data do not cover the full reference period.

Country Coverage

While the Index aims for comprehensive geographic coverage, certain indicators were not collected or made publicly available for all countries. To address these gaps, imputation techniques were applied to generate the most accurate and representative estimates possible. These methods were selected to maintain internal consistency while minimising potential bias in cross-country comparisons.

Subnational and National Data Coverage

The MCVI is designed to provide a subnational perspective on child vulnerability, capturing variation within countries wherever data permit. Every effort was made to include subnational data sources to ensure spatial depth and policy relevance. However, subnational information is not available for all indicators or domains. In such cases, national-level data were used to fill gaps, which may limit the ability to capture local disparities in vulnerability. This approach balances the need for comparability across countries with the objective of providing the most granular analysis possible given existing data constraints.

Use of Proxy Indicators

Because the Index focuses specifically on children, proxy measures were required for some indicators where child-specific data were unavailable. For example, where data on children living in slums were not updated, the overall population living in slum conditions was used as a proxy. As a result, some indicators combine structural measures with those that directly reflect children's lived experiences. This approach ensures that each domain of the MCVI remains comprehensive while recognising current limitations in the global availability of child-focused data.

References

OECD, and European Union. 2008. Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators: Methodology and User Guide.
OECD. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264043466-en>.

B.MCVI Results

Country Ranking

Country	Score in 2025	Regional Rank (1= Most Vulnerable)
Myanmar	0.49	1
Laos	0.55	2
Cambodia	0.56	3
North Korea	0.59	4
Vietnam	0.64	5
Thailand	0.69	6
Mongolia	0.70	7
Mainland China	0.70	8

C. Indicator Profiles: Definitions and Latest Data

Indicator	Description (with Source + URL)
Extreme Deprivation Domain	
Severely Wasted Children	Percentage of children aged 0–59 months who are wasted (weight-for-height below –3 SD of WHO Child Growth Standards). Source: UNDP Global Data Labs URL: https://globaldatalab.org/health/table/wasting/
Overweight Children	Percentage of children aged 0–59 months who are above three standard deviations from median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards. Source: UNDP Global Data Labs URL: https://globaldatalab.org/health/table/obesity/
Food Insecurity	A composite indicator of food security that measures availability, accessibility, affordability, and supply chain risks. It combines national indices (EIU Global Food Security Index, WFP Proteus Index) with subnational inequality and conflict measures, weighted to produce a population-adjusted score. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/resources/?type=research
Child Mortality	A child under 18 has died in the household in the five-year period preceding the survey. Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) URL: https://ophi.org.uk/global-mpi
Drinking Water	Children under 18 living in households where the source of drinking water is not safe or requires a 30+ minute roundtrip. Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) URL: https://ophi.org.uk/global-mpi
Nutrition	Any person under 18 years of age for whom nutritional information is available is undernourished. Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) / World Bank URL: https://ophi.org.uk/global-mpi
Sanitation	Children living in a household that has unimproved or no sanitation facility, or where sanitation is improved but shared with other households. Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) URL: https://ophi.org.uk/global-mpi
Poverty	Aggregated score of the three dimensions of poverty (Health, Education, Living Standards) at the subnational level for children under 18. Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) URL: https://ophi.org.uk/global-mpi
Expected Years of Schooling	Number of expected years of schooling for girls and boys at age 6. Source: UNDP / Global Data Lab URL: https://globaldatalab.org/shdi/table/esch/
Housing	Children living in a household with inadequate housing materials in any of the three components: floor, roof, or walls. Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) URL: https://ophi.org.uk/global-mpi
Immunization	Share of One-Year-Olds Fully Immunized Against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Measles, Hepatitis B, Polio, Hib, Rubella, Rotavirus, Pneumococcal. Source: WHO / UNICEF URL: https://immunizationdata.who.int/
Extreme Discrimination Domain	
Female Birth Registration	Completeness of birth registration among children under age 5. Source: World Bank URL: https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/indicator/sp-reg-brth-zs
Girls Out of School	Percentage of primary-school-age girls not enrolled in primary or secondary school. Source: World Bank URL: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.UNER.FE
Child Development	Proportion of children under 5 who are developmentally on track in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being (% of 36–59 month olds on track in ≥3/4 domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, socio-emotional, learning). Source: UNICEF URL: https://data.unicef.org/topic/early-childhood-development/development-status/

Abuse of Disabled Children	Percentage of children aged 2–14 with one or more functional difficulties who experienced severe physical punishment in the past month. Source: UNICEF URL: https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-disability/overview/
Religious Restrictions	Restrictions on religion imposed by governments and individuals (Government Restrictions and Social Hostilities). Source: Pew Research Center URL: https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/feature/religious-restrictions-around-the-world/
Environmental Exposure	
Climate and Environmental Hazards/	Exposure of children, young people, and their communities to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses, including natural, anthropogenic, and socionatural hazards. Source: UNICEF URL: https://www.unicef.org/reports/climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis
Shocks	A composite indicator measuring subnational climate disaster risk, combining the frequency and intensity of climate hazards (e.g., floods, storms, heatwaves) with population density and poverty levels. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/resources/?type=research
Natural Disasters	Percentage of children under 18 living in slum households; if unavailable, overall slum population used. Source: UN-Habitat URL: https://urban-data-guo-un-habitat.hub.arcgis.com/pages/housing-slums-and-informal-settlements
Resilience Domain	
Well-Functioning Government	Composite: Government Openness & Transparency, Effectiveness, Rule of Law. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
Sound Business Environment	Composite: Regulatory Quality, Financial Institutions Index, GDP per capita. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
Equitable Distribution of Resources	Composite: Inequality-adjusted life expectancy, access to public services, equality of opportunity. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
Acceptance of Rights of Others	Composite: Gender inequality, group grievance, socio-economic exclusion. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
Good Relations with Neighbors	Composite: Equal treatment laws, international tourism, external intervention. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
Free Flow of Information	Composite: Press freedom, quality of information, internet penetration. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
High Levels of Human Capital	Composite: NEET youth %, researchers in R&D, healthy life expectancy. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
Low Levels of Corruption	Composite: Control of corruption, factionalized elites, public sector theft. Source: IEP URL: https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf
Exposure To Violence And Abuse Domain	
Children Exposed to Conflict and Terrorism	Number of deaths from conflict and terrorism scaled by the proportion of the population under 18 years at the subnational (level 1) unit, expressed per 100,000 children. Conflict mortality is weighted at two-thirds and terrorism mortality at one-third to account for relative intensity. Source: ACLED / Terrorism Tracker URL: https://acleddata.com/conflict-data/data-export-tool , https://dragonflyintelligence.com/intelligence/terrorismtracker/
Child Labour	Percentage of children 5–17 involved in child labour, using age-specific thresholds for work and household services. Source: UNICEF URL: https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour/

Forcibly Displaced Children	Number of forcibly displaced children (0–17). Source: UNHCR URL: www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?v2url=161861
Homicide Rate	Rate per 100k of children (0–14) whose cause of death was interpersonal violence, collective violence, or legal intervention. Source: WHO URL: https://data.who.int/indicators/i/60A0E76/361734E
Child Marriage	Percentage of women aged 20–24 first married or in union before ages 15 or 18. Source: UNICEF URL: https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/
Adolescent Fertility Rate	Number of births per 1,000 women aged 15–19. Source: World Bank URL: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT
Children in Detention	Subset of children in conflict with the law who are deprived of liberty in the administration of justice. Source: UNICEF URL: https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/children-in-detention/
Child Online Safety Index	Composite measure of Children's Safe Use of Technology, Family Support, School Digital Citizenship Education, ICT Company Responsibility, Government Policies and Regulation, and Technology Infrastructure. Source: DQ Institute URL: https://www.dqinstitute.org/impact-measure/
Physical Punishment by Caregivers	Percentage of children 1–14 years old who experienced violent discipline (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment) in the past month. Source: UNICEF URL: https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/



About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.



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