

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2005

Childhood Under Threat

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Threats to Childhood

Countries reducing their under-five mortality rate by an average annual rate of less than 1%	Poverty GNI per capita (US\$) 2003	Major armed conflict at some time during 1990–2003	HIV/AIDS Adult (15–49 years) prevalence rate 2003
1 Afghanistan	250 [†]	●	no data
2 Angola	740	●	3.9
3 Azerbaijan	810	●	<0.1
4 Belarus	1590		no data
5 Botswana	3430		37.3
6 Bulgaria	2130		<0.1
7 Burkina Faso	300		4.2
8 Burundi	100	●	6.0
9 Cambodia	310	●	2.6
10 Cameroon	640		6.9
11 Central African Rep.	260		13.5
12 Chad	250	●	4.8
13 Congo	640	●	4.9
14 Congo, Dem. Rep.	100	●	4.2
15 Côte d'Ivoire	660		7.0
16 Gabon	3580*		8.1
17 Georgia	830* [†]	●	0.1
18 Iraq	2170	●	<0.1
19 Jamaica	2760*		1.2
20 Kazakhstan	1780		0.2
21 Kenya	390		6.7
22 Korea, Dem. People's Rep. of	765		no data
23 Latvia	4070		0.6
24 Liberia	130	●	5.9
25 Mauritania	430		0.6
26 Nigeria	320		5.4
27 Papua New Guinea	510		0.6
28 Russian Federation	2610*		1.1
29 Rwanda	220	●	5.1
30 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3300		no data
31 Sao Tome and Principe	320		no data
32 Senegal	550		0.8
33 Sierra Leone	150 [†]	●	no data
34 Somalia	130	●	no data
35 South Africa	2780		21.5
36 Swaziland	1350		38.8
37 Tajikistan	190	●	<0.1
38 Tanzania, United Rep. of	290		8.8
39 Togo	310		4.1
40 Turkmenistan	1120*		<0.1
41 Tuvalu	no data		no data
42 Ukraine	970*		1.4
43 Uzbekistan	420		0.1
44 Zambia	380 [†]		16.5
45 Zimbabwe	480		24.6

Data shown in blue meet the definitions of 'Threats to childhood'.

[†] Indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition or refer to only part of a country.

* Included in poverty column because of stagnant or negative GDP per capita average annual growth rate, 1990–2003. Gabon: –0.2; Georgia: –2.7; Jamaica: 0.0; Russian Federation: –1.5; Turkmenistan: –1.3; Ukraine: –4.7.

Source: For conflict data: Adapted from SIPRI/Uppsala Conflict Data Project.

Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG 4) calls on countries to reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

Of the 98 countries that are 'off track' to meet the goal, 45 are 'seriously off track': reducing their under-five mortality rate by an average annual rate of less than 1%. The vast majority of these suffer from one or more of the three major threats to childhood: high rates of poverty, conflict or HIV/AIDS.



MDG 4: The goal implies a 4.4% target average annual rate of reduction.

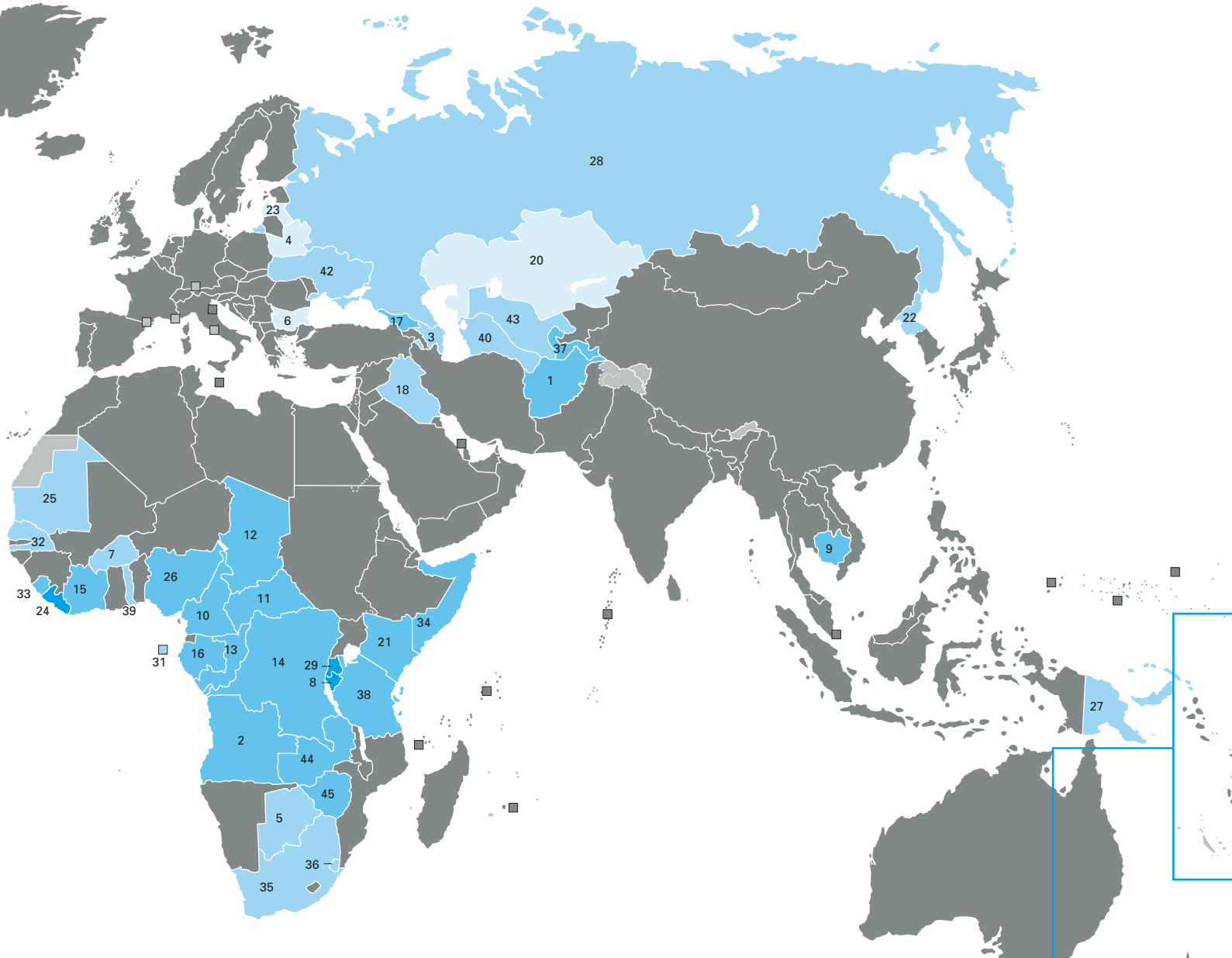
Threats to childhood for the purposes of this map:

Poverty – \$765 or less GNI per capita in 2003, or stagnant or negative GDP per capita average annual growth rate, 1990–2003.

Conflict – Major armed conflict at some time during 1990–2003. Note: Data from SIPRI/Uppsala Conflict Data Project except for the Russian Federation. The United Nations has stated that the situation in the Republic of Chechnya is not an armed conflict within the meaning of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto (ref: United Nations General Assembly/Security Council Corrigendum A/58/546/Corr.2-S/2003/1053/Corr.2).

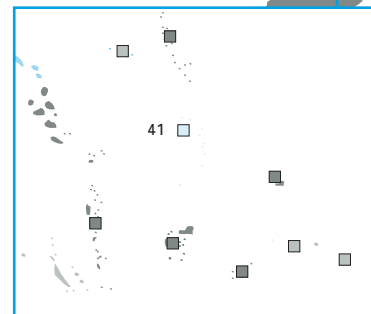
HIV/AIDS – Adult (15–49 years) prevalence rate over 5%, 2003.

When 1 + 1 Is More Than 2



Progress towards MDG 4

- Reducing under-five mortality by an average annual rate of 1% or more
- Seriously off track to meet MDG 4
- Seriously off track to meet MDG 4 and faced by one threat
- Seriously off track to meet MDG 4 and faced by two threats
- Seriously off track to meet MDG 4 and faced by three threats
- No data



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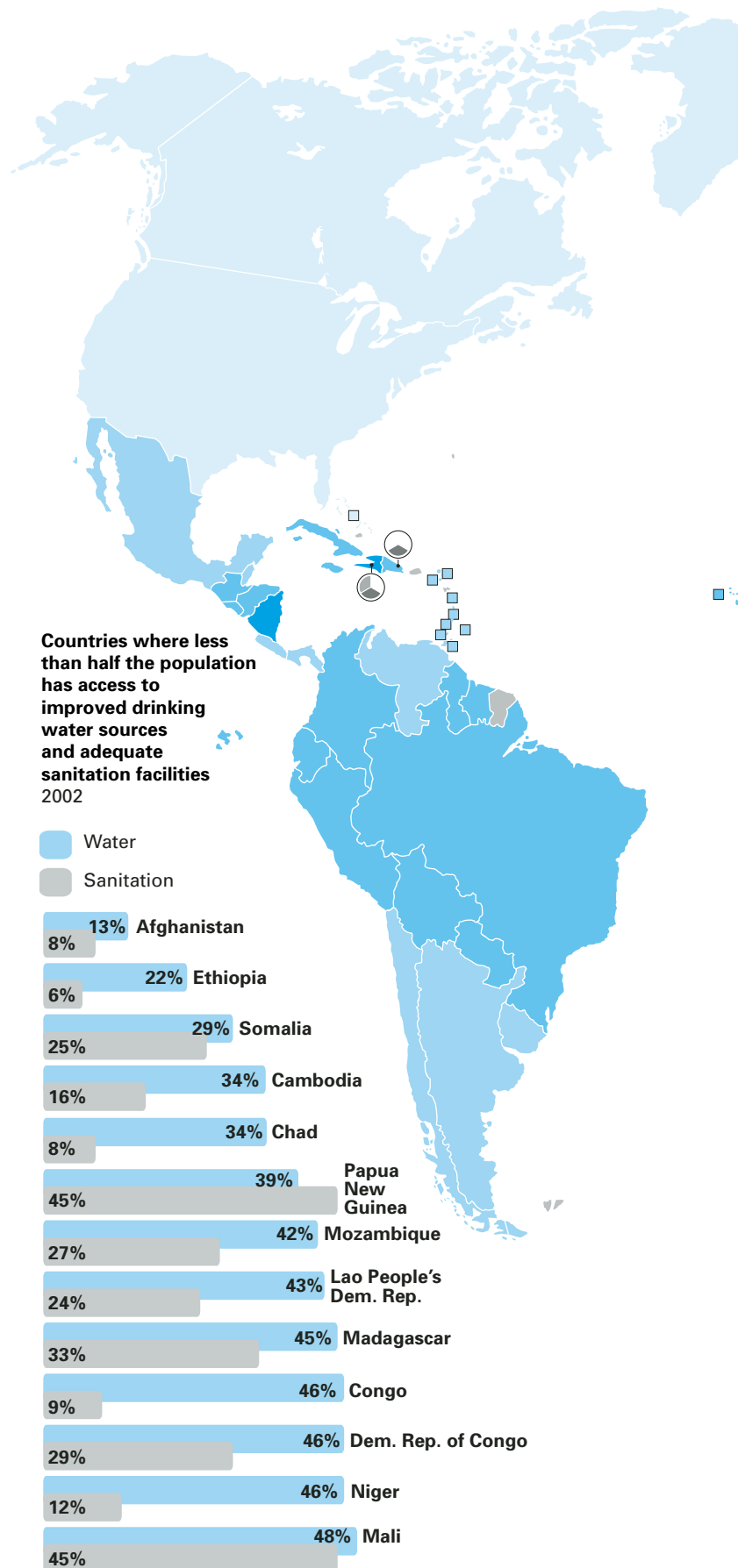
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

The Multiple Dimensions of Child Poverty

Poverty threatens every right, depriving children of the capacities they require to survive, develop and thrive. Children living in the countries highlighted on this map face some of the worst deprivations of essential goods and services: More than one third of all children are malnourished, lack basic immunizations, or are not enrolled in or attending school. In 13 countries, less than half the population has access to improved drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities.

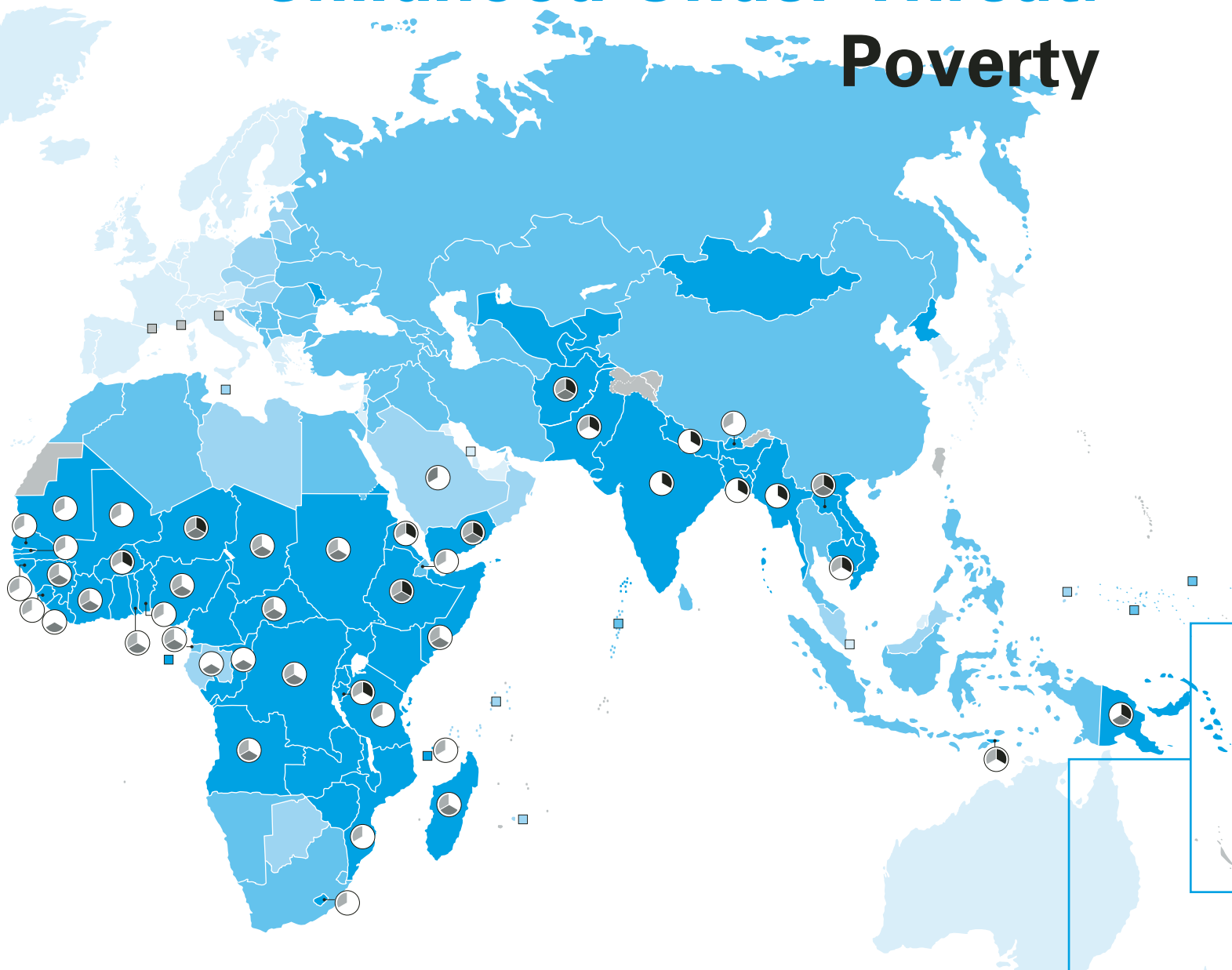
Income-poverty measures are a good indication of where the problem lies. Most countries with high levels of deprivation suffer from low levels of per capita income. But income-poverty measures cannot adequately convey how children actually experience poverty. India and Senegal have very similar levels of per capita income, for instance, but children in India are more at risk from malnutrition while children in Senegal are more likely to miss out on an education. Eighty-nine per cent of children in Peru receive the DPT3 vaccine, while only 65 per cent of children in the Dominican Republic do – but the per capita income in the former country is less than 4 per cent higher than in the latter.

Poverty embodies the multidimensional nature of the threats to childhood: Each deprivation exacerbates the effect of the others, and when two or more coincide, the effects on children can be catastrophic. Children who must walk long distances to fetch water have less time to attend school – a problem that particularly affects girls. Children who are not immunized or who are malnourished are much more susceptible to the diseases that are spread through poor sanitation. These and other deprivations, such as lack of adequate shelter and access to social services, inhibit children's ability to achieve their full potential. Until every child realizes their right to education, nutrition and health care, childhood will continue to be under threat.

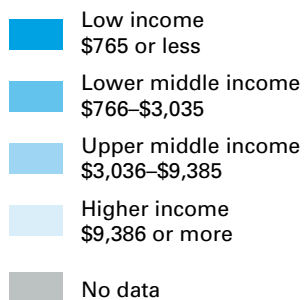


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Childhood Under Threat: Poverty

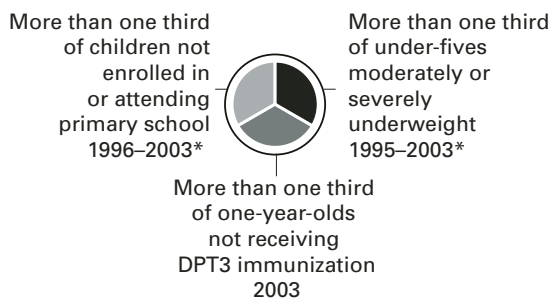


GNI per capita 2003

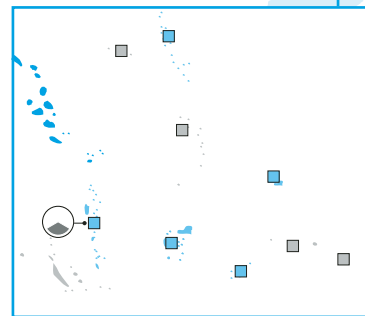


Source: For income group classifications: World Bank.

Dimensions of Poverty



* Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.



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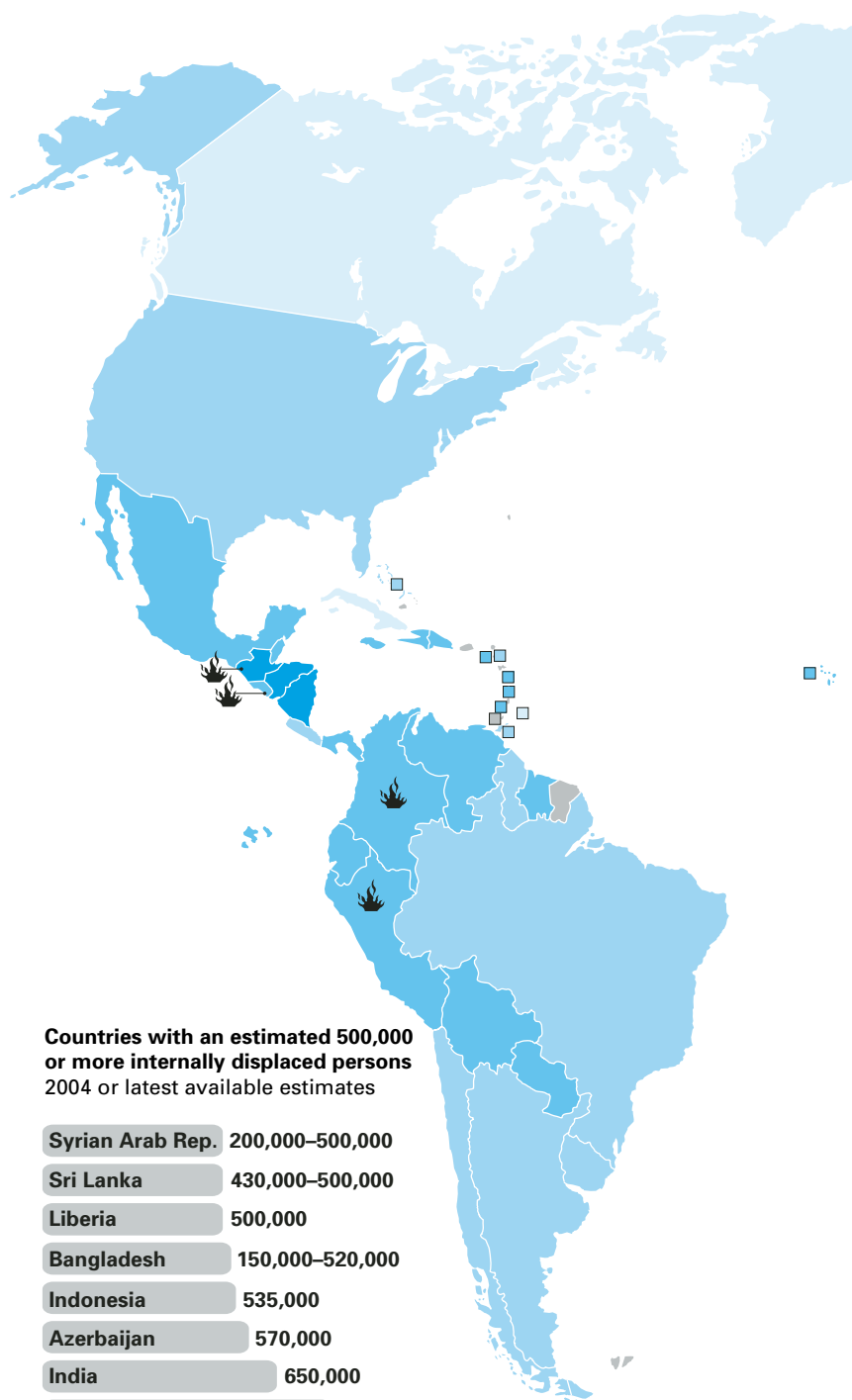
Wars Roll Back Progress For Children

Developing countries are often locked in a vicious cycle in which poverty generates the desperation and fear that can lead to conflict, threatening the rights of vast numbers of children.

Armed conflict maims and kills children and those who protect them. It destroys the homes and schools that were built to nurture them. It separates children from their families, increases their risk of exploitation and abuse, and exposes them to violence that can result in psychological and psychosocial trauma for years to come. In a number of countries, children are forced to take part in combat or to become servants, messengers or spies.

The threat of violence can drive entire communities from their homes, creating large populations of refugees and internally displaced persons who are vulnerable to malnutrition and diseases, including HIV/AIDS. All too often, the period of exile runs into years or even decades. Generations are growing up in camps where overcrowding, poor sanitation and the weak application of the rule of law make conditions particularly hazardous for children.

The effects of armed conflict extend far beyond the battlefield. Damage to infrastructure can disrupt routine immunization activities or impede access for vaccinators – making children in conflict zones disproportionately vulnerable to death from preventable diseases. Explosive remnants of war often remain embedded in the landscape of war-affected countries, endangering children's lives and rendering much of their environment unsafe. And by draining much-needed funds from national budgets and depriving families of their livelihoods, wars roll back development, deepen poverty and entrench the social disparities that blight every aspect of childhood.

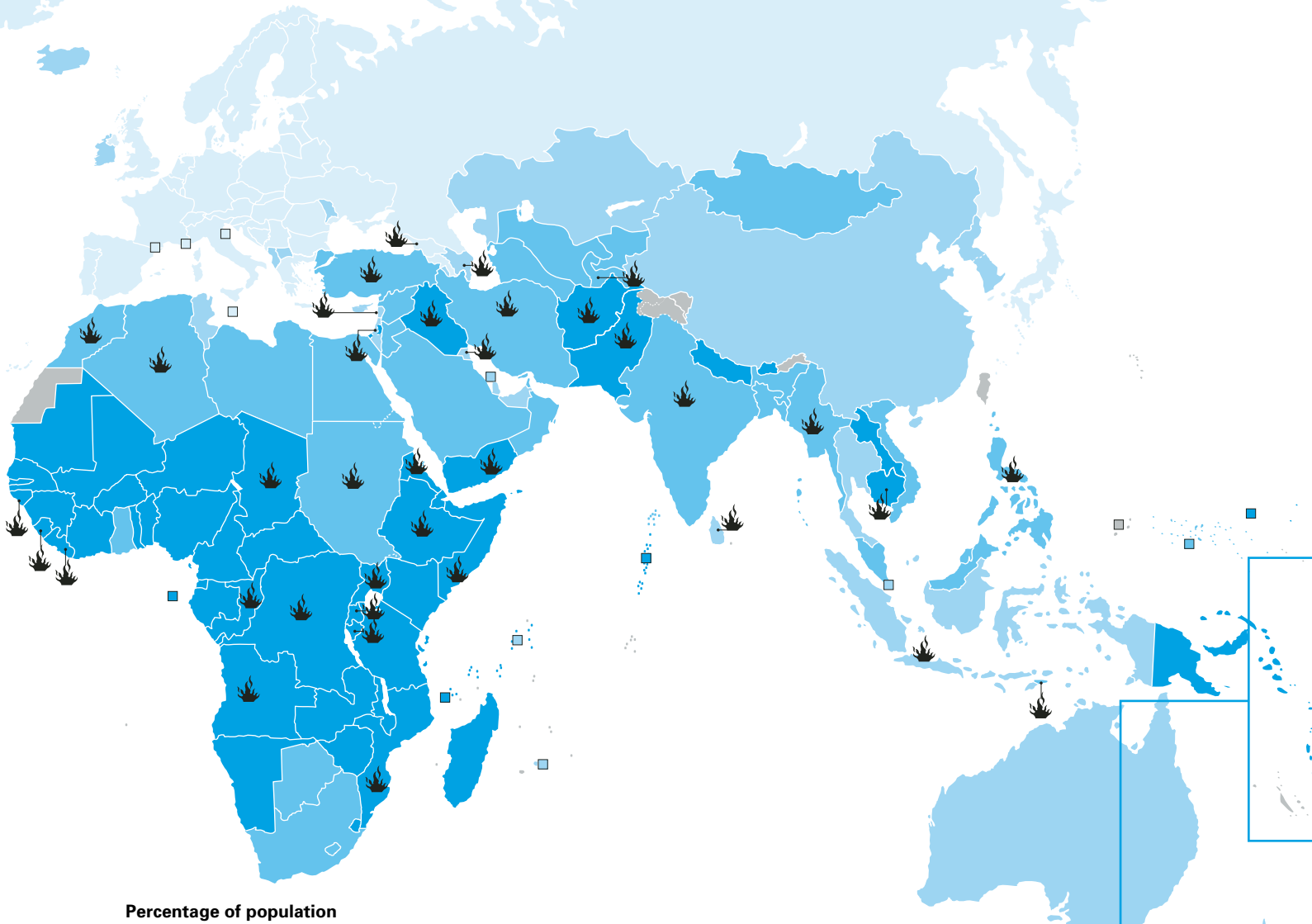


Countries with an estimated 500,000 or more internally displaced persons 2004 or latest available estimates

Syrian Arab Rep.	200,000–500,000
Sri Lanka	430,000–500,000
Liberia	500,000
Bangladesh	150,000–520,000
Indonesia	535,000
Azerbaijan	570,000
India	650,000
Côte d'Ivoire	500,000–800,000
Iraq	900,000
Myanmar	600,000–1,000,000
Algeria	1,000,000*
Turkey	1,000,000
Uganda	1,600,000
Colombia	
Dem. Rep. of Congo	
Sudan	

* Estimated number of persons displaced 1992–2004 ** Estimated number of persons displaced 1985–2004

Childhood Under Threat: Conflict



Percentage of population under 15 years
2004 or latest available data

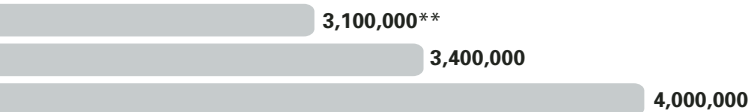
- 40% and over
- 30%–39%
- 20%–29%
- Under 20%
- No data

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Statistics Division.

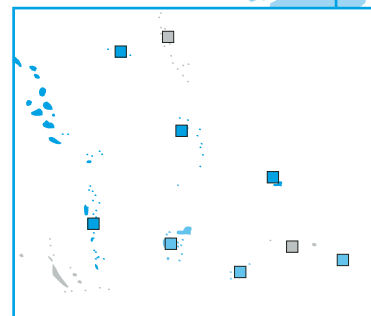


Developing countries in which major armed conflict has occurred at some time during 1990 to 2003

Source: SIPRI/Uppsala Conflict Data Project.



Source: Global IDP Project, Norwegian Refugee Council.



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The Young Face of HIV/AIDS

While most of the nearly 38 million people living with HIV/AIDS are adults, the pandemic is increasingly recognized to have devastating repercussions for childhood. Over 2 million children under the age of 15 are already infected with HIV. Fifty per cent of HIV-positive infants die before they reach the age of two.

Childhood is at risk as soon as HIV/AIDS enters the household. By 2003, 15 million children – 80 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa – had been orphaned by the disease. The rise in infection rates among women in the region means that a growing proportion of the children orphaned because of HIV/AIDS have lost their mothers. Countless more have been deprived of their relatives, teachers and health workers. Many children have become caregivers themselves, increasing the likelihood that they will not receive an education, have access to health care, or be safeguarded from exploitation and abuse.

The pandemic has contributed to higher poverty levels, an increased incidence of child labour and dramatically shortened lifespans. In Botswana, for instance, over 37 per cent of adults are infected with HIV – and a child born there in 2003 could expect to live just 39 years, down from 65 years in 1990. In the most-affected countries, HIV/AIDS is eliminating the protective environment that is the right of every child and the first responsibility of adults to children.

Region	Life expectancy 2003
Sub-Saharan Africa	46
Middle East and North Africa	67
South Asia	63
East Asia and Pacific	69
Latin America and Caribbean	70
CEE/CIS	70
Industrialized countries	78
Developing countries	62
Least developed countries	49
World	63

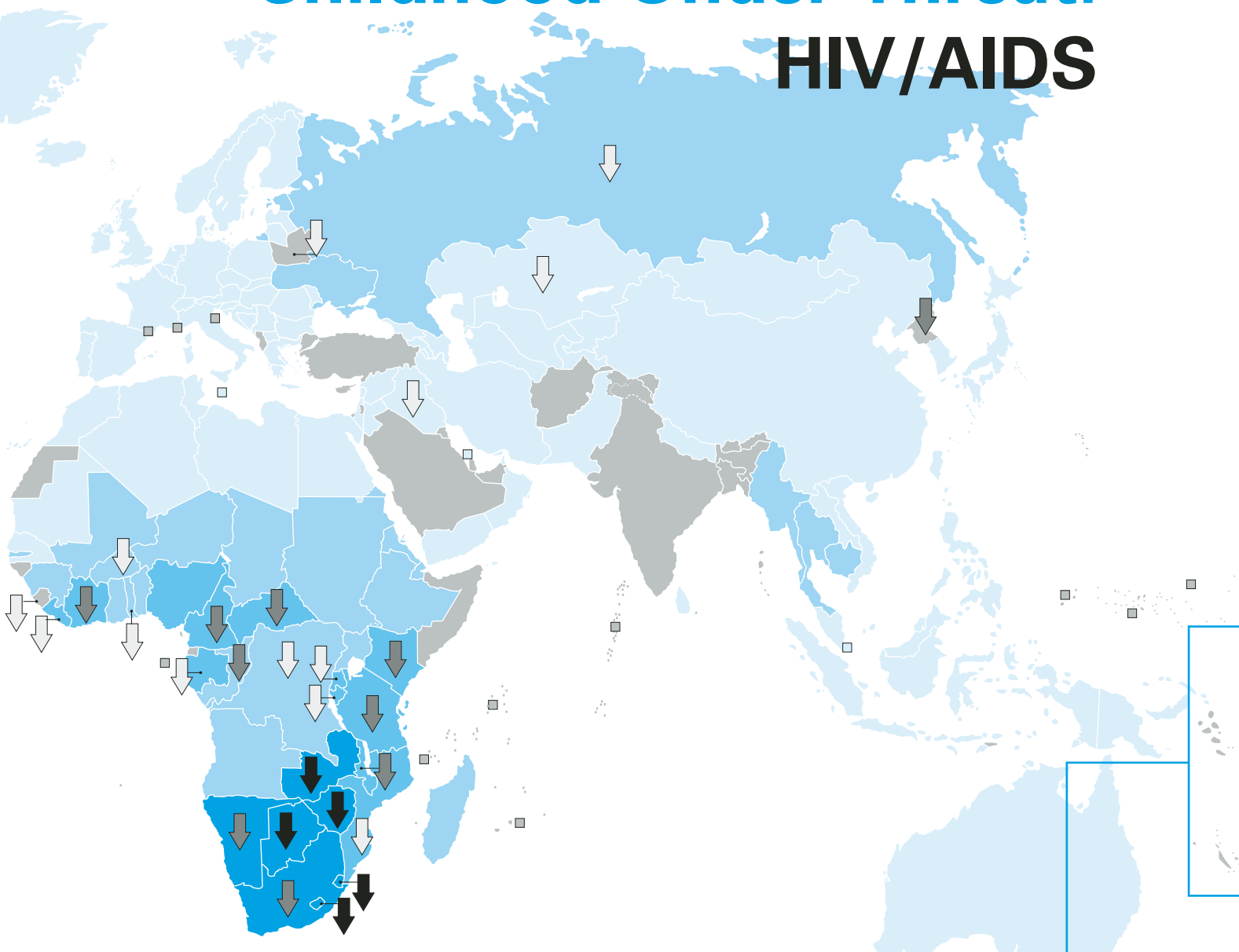


Sub-Saharan African countries where more than 250,000 children (0–17 years) have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS 2003

Burkina Faso	260,000
Côte d'Ivoire	310,000
Mozambique	470,000
Malawi	500,000
Zambia	630,000
Kenya	650,000
Ethiopia	720,000
Dem. Rep. of Congo	770,000
Uganda	940,000
Zimbabwe	980,000
Tanzania, United Rep. of	980,000
South Africa	1,100,000
Nigeria	

Source: UNAIDS, UNICEF, USAID, *Children on the Brink* 2004.

Childhood Under Threat: HIV/AIDS



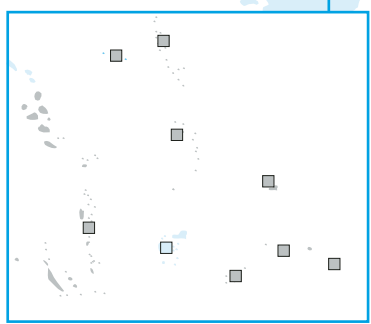
HIV/AIDS prevalence among adults (15–49 years) end-2003

- Over 15%
- 5.1%–15.0%
- 1.1%–5.0%
- 1.0% and under
- No data

Life expectancy has decreased 1990–2003

- More than 15 years
- 6–15 years
- 1–5 years

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Statistics Division.



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1,800,000