CLOSING THE CHILD DATA GAP

Summary Report

#childrencount17

As many as 224 million children around the world are not counted

As many as 224 million children around the world are not counted by the monitoring systems used to measure country level progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.[1] If these children are not included in the data, they are statistically invisible and at serious risk of being left behind. When children are counted, they are more likely to be included in government programs which help to ensure they grow up healthy, safe, and better-prepared to contribute positively to their societies.

1. Roy Carr-Hill (7 March 2017) Counting children in and out of school. Presentation at Missing Children, Missing Data: Approaches to leave no child behind. UN Statistical Commission Side Event. New York.
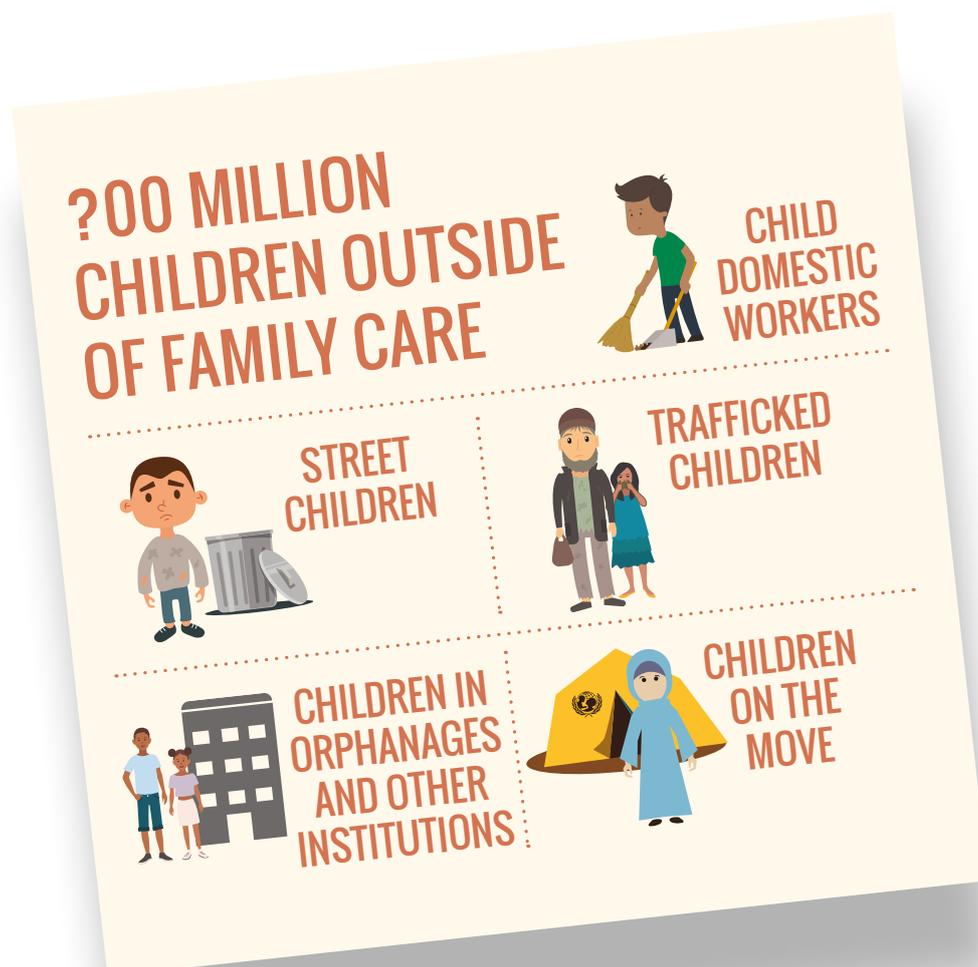
AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF CHILDREN ARE LIVING OUTSIDE FAMILY CARE.

These children, whether they are in orphanages or other institutions, on the streets, or on the move, are among the most vulnerable in the world. The international community has long recognized the shortcomings of global measurement tools that lead to these children being uncounted. Shortly after ratifying the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations promised that the Agenda's Goals and Targets should be met for all segments of society. If the UN is to meet this promise to "Leave No One Behind" then there must be a concerted and focused effort to ensure that children outside family care are counted and their health, education and safety be considered paramount.

WHO IS MISSING?

Millions of vulnerable children are living on the streets, unaccompanied and separated in emergency or migratory situations, in forced or hazardous domestic labor, and in institutional care. Because they do not live in a 'household', they are systematically left out of mainstream data collection processes that tend to rely on 'household-based' surveys.

In a 'household based' survey, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), a paid researcher goes door-to-door to a pre-defined sample of households to gather information on the composition and needs of residents living inside the household. It has been estimated that as many as 200 million children are missed by these surveys worldwide.

?00 MILLION CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF FAMILY CARE

CHILD DOMESTIC WORKERS

STREET CHILDREN

TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE
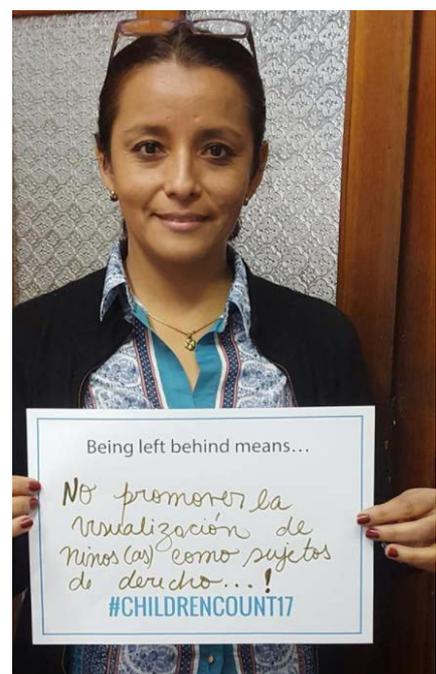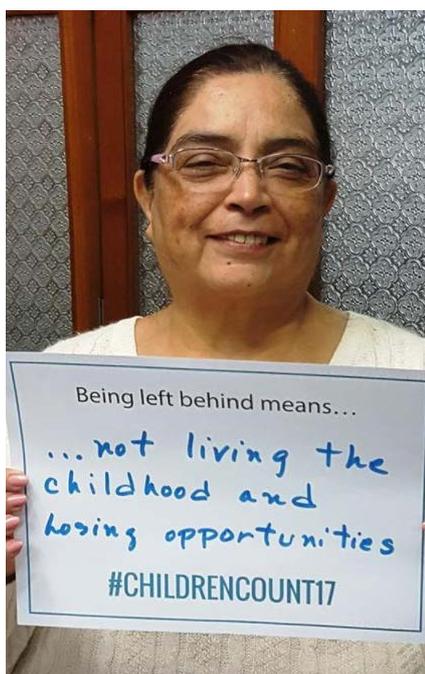
#CHILDRENCOUNT17 DATA SUMMIT

Co-hosted by Comic Relief Inc/Red Nose Day, Global Alliance for Children, Lumos, and the United Arab Emirates Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, #ChildrenCount17 marked the start of a global conversation on the need to close the gaps left by traditional systems to collect national and global development data.

#ChildrenCount17 participants pledged to work collaboratively to ensure that the following five cohorts of children outside family care are better counted: children in institutions, street connected children, trafficked children, children on the move and child domestic workers.

Many governments and national statistics offices lack the capacity and resources to include children outside families in data collection. In most countries, there is either no system in place for collecting this type of data, or systems are not comprehensive or robust.

Ninety colleagues from 60 organizations came together in July 18-19, 2017 at the Yale Club in New York City to explore child-data gaps and why they exist; how such gaps relate to the United Nation's promise to "leave no one behind", and what practical steps can be taken to break down barriers to ensure that children are included and benefit from the commitments made in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participants were purposefully selected because of their personal or organizational expertise on specific vulnerable groups of children known to be undercounted, experience with innovative measurement methods, and insights on how to generate the political will and resources needed to solve a challenge of this nature.

Over the two-day summit, participants shared learning through a series of panels and interactive presentations. Through working groups designed to utilize their know-how, participants co-created several strategic actions to define, find, map, and measure children outside family care. The driving goal was not only to guarantee that data for these children be routinely collected, but also to ensure that such data is used to meaningfully include, and improve, the lives of children often left behind.

#ChildrenCount17 was opened by His Excellency Abdullah Lootah of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority of the United Arab Emirates. As host of the upcoming UN World Data Forum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in October 2018, he encouraged participants to consider how the Forum might support the goal to see all children counted, suggesting that a second #ChildrenCount convening take place in Dubai.

Olga Grigoret, a self-advocate, shared her personal account of living in an institution in Moldova. Olga urged stakeholders to work together and change the future of young people growing up in institutions today.

Participants and speakers were asked to consider the technical, political, and resource challenges that have thus far prevented children from being counted. They were also asked to consider how other sectors have overcome similar challenges and ways to apply lessons learned from these experiences to the identified challenges'. The group came together around three topline recommendations for moving forward:

CATALYZE COUNTRY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS

Identify a set of 3-5 countries to lead national demonstration projects to count children outside family care, building local capacity, ensuring the approach is reflected in national policy and legislation, and setting an example for other countries to follow. The initial countries proposed were Uruguay, Kenya and Haiti, based on ongoing initiatives to count children and representation from these countries at the conference.

ENGAGE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR AND EMBRACE INNOVATION

Work with private sector partners with relevant experience in using technology to overcome challenges in the collection and use of data. Explore new approaches to overcome existing challenges in collecting data on children outside of households.

FORM A #CHILDRENCOUNT DATA COLLABORATIVE

Ask #ChildrenCount participants and their extended networks to contribute their organizational datasets to a unified platform. This unified dataset could be used to gain new insights, discover gaps and provide a solid foundation for future efforts to collect data through open source and public data partners.

NEXT STEPS

The #ChildrenCount secretariat is currently developing plans for the country demonstration pilots, growing connections with the technology sector and exploring ways to establish the collaborative. Plans, and ways to be involved, will be circulated in early 2018.

Those interested in joining the proposed #ChildrenCount Collaborative and supporting future initiatives are invited to:

JOIN

Join the #ChildrenCount community by participating in future conference calls and meetings.

SHARE

Share insights from the summit and this document with colleagues and peers who might be interested in joining the conversation and supporting solutions with time, expertise or other resources.

SUPPORT

Support the development country demonstration programs. If you or your organization is working in Uruguay, Kenya or Haiti (or another country that might be of interest) and you're interested in joining the efforts of the country demonstration programs, please get in touch at anna@wearelumos.org.

CONTACT

For further information please contact Anna Darling, Advocacy and Campaigns Officer at anna.darling@wearelumos.org.

APPENDIX I

Working Group Opportunity and Solution Statements

ISSUE TO TACKLE	OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT	SOLUTION STATEMENT
Agreeing on Common Definitions How can we incentivize stakeholders, including governments and national statistical agencies, to develop and agree on common definitions of children outside family care?	Work with governments and other key stakeholders to demonstrate the 'business case' for having a common definition of children outside family care and the importance of common definitions in development of credible administrative and prevalence data systems.	Develop a 'theory of change' that will demonstrate how a common definition will advance data collection on children outside families. Identify relevant global agencies, regional bodies and national governments to support the process and adoption of proposed definitions.
Acknowledging Populations and Providing Services Having agreed a common definition, how can we incentivize governments to acknowledge these populations exist and provide appropriate services to them?	Ensure governments hear the voices of children and young people from affected populations and uphold fundamental human rights, as guaranteed by the CRC.	Create mechanisms for concrete opportunities for children to influence policy-making, including children's parliaments.
Accessing and Identifying Populations Given that a large percentage of children outside of family care live in places that are hard to access, how can we break down the barriers that prevent access needed to count them?	Create a unified data set with data from all organizations at the conference and use this data set to gain new insights and identify gaps.	Create a data collaborative with existing datasets from the participants of #ChildrenCount17 and over time expand to include open source and big data partners
Methodologies Once we identify and access the populations of children outside of family care, how can we count them and ensure data that can improve children's lives is collected?	Improve and standardize existing methodologies to count children outside families. How might we encourage the public to take part?	Develop a citizen-led reporting system operating on accessible technology that enables stakeholders, including children, to report and undertake mapping at the community level

Political Challenges (1) How can we ensure there is political will to implement solutions?	Reframe existing policy priorities/ funding structures to ensure the rights of children outside of family care are protected.	Identify a set of countries to lead national demonstration projects to count children outside family care, building local capacity, ensuring the approach is reflected in national policy and legislation, and setting an example for other countries to follow.
Political Challenges (2) How can we ensure there is political will to implement solutions.	Persuade governments, in meeting their SDG goals, to collect data on children outside of family care, worldwide and without prejudice.	
Resource Challenges (1) How can we ensure solutions are resourced sustainably.	Create an economic case to count children outside households.	Collaborate among the organizations at #ChildrenCount17 to create a report on the economic case for counting children outside of family care; present a cost-benefit analysis to make the case for greater investment.
Resource Challenges (2) How can we ensure solutions are resourced sustainably.	Overcome the competition among stakeholders to bring better coordination and create an economic case to count children outside of households.	

APPENDIX II

#ChildrenCount17 Participant List - Name and Organisation

Gabriele Rossi, Accurat

Christopher Behan, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Florence Martin, Better Care Network

Gideon Mann, Bloomberg

Craig Juntunen, Both Ends Burning

John Hembling, Catholic Relief Services

Maria Angelica Chong Wong, CESIP

Gala Diaz Langou, CIPPEC

Davis Adieno, CIVICUS

Alison Yu, Cloudera

Lindsay Stark, Columbia University

Ethan Finkelstein, Comic Relief USA

Emma Leavy, Comic Relief USA

Sarah Thomas de Benitez, Consortium for Street Children

Sian Wynne, Consortium for Street Children

Monica Llaguno, Covenant House International

George Richardson, Data for Democracy

Sophie Ogilvy, De La Rue

Michele Bond, Department of State

Rachael Beaven, DFID

Rachel Pierre-Champagne, Digicel Foundation

John Williamson, Displaced Children and Orphans Fund of USAID

Talia Bongni, ECPAT-USA

Carol Smolenski, ECPAT-USA

Ghazal Keshavarzian, Elevate Children Funders Group

H.E. Abdullah Lootah, Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, United Arab Emirates

Beth Daniels Fonkoze, USA

Zoe Dibb, Girl Effect

Rick Rinehart, Global Alliance for Children

Kathleen Strottman, Global Alliance for Children

Brandolon Barnett, Global Impact

Michael Eddy, Global Innovation Fund

Jenna Slotin, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

Krishna Patel, Grace Farms

Gonzalo Salles, Gurises Unidos

Sana Siddiqui Haq, Centre for Child Rights

Delia Pop, Hope and Homes for Children

Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch

Jane Buchanan, Human Rights Watch

Chris Desmond, Human Social Sciences Research Council, South Africa

Tyler Radford, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT)

Maura Harty, International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children

Julie Gilbert, Rosicky International Social Service

Felicity Sackville, Northcott International Social Service

APPENDIX II - CONTINUED

Ramya Subrahmanian, Know Violence in Childhood

Jerry Paffendorf, LOVELAND Technologies

Alex Christopoulos, Lumos

Nathalie France, Lumos

Olga Grigoret, Lumos

Lina Gyllensten, Lumos

Merel Krediet, Lumos

Kris Moran, Lumos

Georgette Mulheir, Lumos

Natalia Rotaru, Lumos

Elizabeth Seuling, Lumos

Bryan Housel, Mapbox

Elector Albert Kilusungu, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Tanzania

Pak Kimchoeun, Moulathan Consulting (MLT)

Pat Dolan, National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland

María de los Ángeles Rodríguez, Observatory of the Institute for Childhood and Adolescence of Uruguay

Amoce Auguste, Office for Protection of Citizens, Haiti

Elizabeth Stuart, Overseas Development Institute

Sara Ruto, PAL (People's Action for Learning) Network

Mark Brennan, Pennsylvania State University

Jeff Jordan, Population Reference Bureau

Fred Mbise, Railway Children

Tom Defilipo, Retrak

Coco Lammers Save the Children

Nicole Richardson, Save the Children

Sofia Garcia, SOS Children's Villages

Stefan van der Swaluw, SOS Children's Villages Netherlands

Duncan Ross, StreetInvest UK

Ambassador Susan Jacobs, U.S. Department of State (Retired)

Dane McQueen, UAE Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Manfred Nowak, UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

Anna Zenz, UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

Melissa Del Carmen Escoffery Arias, UN Mission of Panama

Carela Mendez Rodriguez, UN Mission of Panama

Carolina Sanchez Gonzalez, UN: Delegation of the European Union

Andrew Painter, UNHCR

Claudia Cappa, UNICEF

Eri Dwivedi, UNICEF

Debra Jackson, UNICEF

Juan Jose Goyeneche, Universidad de la Republica - Uruguay

Charita Castro, US Department of Labor

Davina Durgana, Walk Free Foundation

Shyama Kuruvilla, World Health Organization