ALL CHILDREN COUNT BUT NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE COUNTED
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An open letter to the UN and its Member States
Over 250 signatory organisations as of 15 November 2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

If the Post-2015 agenda is to leave no one behind, it is essential that the global monitoring framework includes methodologies to ensure that children living outside of households and/or without parental care are represented and that data is used to inform targeted, appropriate, and accessible interventions.
Data disaggregation by care-giving setting/living arrangement is key to tracking progress for all children, particularly regarding Goals 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 16. This is critical to: a) analysing how trends differ between children living outside of households and/or without parental care and the general child population; and b) ensuring that programs and policies prioritize the most vulnerable children. Data collection should reflect the goals and definitions included in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

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ABC Children’s Aid  
Abibimman Foundation  
AbleChildAfrica  
Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts  
ACER Brasil  
ActionAid International Rwanda  
ADD International  
ADILISHA: Children, Youth & Family Preservation  
Afaiv Onlus*  
African Child Policy Forum  
African Institute for Child Studies  
Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes  
Alliance for Children Mauritius  
Alliance for Development  
Alliance for Parenting Education in Africa  
Amanziko / Instituto de Estudos e Pesquisas  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Another Hope Children’s Ministries  
Apam Onlus*  
Association des Jeunes Solidaires de l’Afrique  
A.J.A.  
Association for Childhood Education International  
Association for Promotion Sustainable  
Development India*  
Association of Working Children and Youth of  
Central African Republic*  
ATD Fourth World  
Barcha*  
Bethany Christian Services  
Better Care Network  
Better Care Network Netherlands  
BMORETGUY LLC  
Buckner - Peru  
Cambodian Children’s Trust  
Campagnon D’Action Pour le Developpment  
Familial (CADF-ONG)  
Candid Concepts Development*  
Care for Children  
Casa Viva - Costa Rica  
CBM  
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change  
Research - Nigeria*  
Centre for Youth Development and Adult Education  
Centre of Excellence on Alternative Care of Children, India  
CESVI  
CHD - Coordination Humanitaire et Développement  
(includes 39 French international solidarity organisations)  
Child Helpline International  
Child in Family Focus – Kenya  
Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) – Uganda  
Child Rights Coalition Asia  
Childcare Rwanda  
ChildFund Alliance  
Childhood Development Trust Fund Network  
Children Agenda Forum - Kenya  
Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE)  
Children and Young People with Disability Australia  
Christian Alliance for Orphans  
Christine Akwero Foundation (CAF) - Uganda  
Collective Community Action  
Columbia University - Columbia Group for Children in Adversity  
Columbia University - Mailman School of Public health  
Comité de los Derechos del Niño (CDNU) - Uruguay  
Community Active In Development Association (CADA)*  
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute  
Consortium for Street Children  
Construisons Ensemble le Monde (ONG CEM)  
Convention pour l’Emergence du Sénégal - Coalition Agenda Post2015 (C.E.S.-C.A.P2015)*  
Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza (CNCA)  
Coordination SUD  
CPC Learning Network  
Crecer con Justicia  
Curious Minds  
Danielle Childrens Fund  
Defence for Children International (DCI)  
Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional (DNI) Costa Rica  
Developpeurs Sans Frontieres*  
Disability Rights International  
Dogodogo Centre Street Children Trust  
Edutech for Environment  
Elevate Children Funders Group  
Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos  
ENFOQUE Niñez  
Equipe Pastorale auprès des Enfants en Détresse*  
Esol Foundation*  
EU-CORD  
Eurochild  
European Association For Service Providers for  
Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)  
European Foundation Centre (EFC)  
European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)  
Ezra Ministries of Tanzania  
Family for Every Child  
Firelight Foundation  
First Step - Cambodia  
For Our Children Foundation  
Forum Syd*  
Foster Care India  
Foundation for Environmental Stewardship  
Friends of Education for African Children Orphaned  
by AIDS  
Fundacion Kidsave Colombia  
GARJAN-Nepal  
GHR Foundation  
Gimnaziul Ciutulești*
Gimnaziul Gura Căinarului*
Global Alliance for Children (GAC)
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
Global Social Service Workforce Alliance
GlobalPartnersUnited*
Goal Global
Good Health Community Programmes*
Grand River South East Youth Circle*
Group For Transcultural Relations, GRT
Haitian Families First
Helen Little Haiti Foundation
Hélpeople Foundation NGO
Heshima Kenya*
Hope and Homes
Hope Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship
Human Dignity Foundation
Human Rights Watch
Inclusion International
Independence of Disabled Persons of Kenya (IDPK)*
Independent Living Programme for People with Disabilities
International Adoption
International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates
International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)
International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO)
International Social Service - Australia
International Social Service - Canada
International Social Service - Netherlands
International Social Service - USA
International Social Service - Switzerland
International Society on Early Intervention
International Step by Step Association (ISSA)
IntraHealth International
Investing in Children and their Societies
Isman Women Initiative Support Organisation (ISMAN)
Jeunes Volontaires pour l’Environnement nel Nepal (JVE NEPAL)*
Jo’burg Child Welfare
Kakamega CSOs Network*
KEDEN-Alliance for Community Survival
Kenya Counselling & Psychological Association*
Kidasha (formerly: Child Welfare Scheme)
KidSave
Kiviwosheg
La Porte Ouverte asbl
Lango Samaritan Initiative Organization (LSIO)
Le Radici e Le Ali - Associazione Famiglie Adottive Leonard Cheshire Disability
liceul teoretic, Vasilie Alecsandri, or.Marculesti, r-on Floresti*
Light for the World
Literate Pakistan Programme - A project of NCLSW, Better Education for All - Pakistan*
Little Angels Network
Lumos
M’Lop Tapang
Maestral
Make Mothers Matter - MMM
Mario Negri Research Institute
Massazame Child & Youth Care Centre
Mouvement Africain Des Enfants et Jeunes
Travailleurs (MAETJ)- Central African Republic
Movimiento Salvavidas*
MyRight- Empowers persons with disabilities
Nadacri fond J&T
National Foster Care Association Malta- NFCAM
National Youth Council of Ireland
National Youth Parliament*
Ndenuka Education Centre*
New Light Children Center Organization
NGO Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi
Numeria statistiche*
OAfrica
Oak Foundation
OPCIÓN
Parenting in Africa Network
Parenting Uganda*
Partnership for Early Childhood Development & Disability Rights (PECDDR)
Patronato pro-home child irapuato, a.c. (Villa Infantil)
Peoples’ Development Forum (PDF)
Phoenix Child Welfare Plan International
Progetto Famiglia Onlus
Psychosocial Support Centre Ltd
Reacción Climática – Bolivia
Red een Kind
Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento Familiar RELAF
REPSSI
REPSSI Uganda
Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
Restorative Justice Centre
Restoring and empowering communities (REC)
Rete Italiana Disabilita E Sviluppo
ReThink Orphanages
RETRAK
RIATT – ESA
Rodina u nás
Rural Women Development Initiative
S.A.L.V.E. International
SA Cares for Life
Safe Child Africa
Sällinge
Samband íslenska kristniboðsfélaga (Icelandic Lutheran Mission)
Save the Children
Save Uganda Foundation
Secours Islamique France
Sedava Enterprises
Serviciu de asistență psihopedagogică*
Sewing God’s Seeds
SFAC
Sightsavers
So They Can
So They Can–Kenya
Society *Our Children* Opatija–Croatia
Sol i Togo
SOS Children's Villages
SOS Children's Villages – Lesotho
SOS Children’s Villages Greece
SOS Children’s Villages International
SOS Children’s Villages Italy
SOS Childrens’ Villages Germany
SOS Enfants Sans Frontières France
SOS Villages d’Enfants Belgique
SOS Villages d’Enfants France
SOS Villages d'Enfants Mali
SPOON Foundation
Stahili Foundation
State University “A. Russo”*
Tanzania Community Based Option for Protection and Empowerment Organisation (TACOPE)*
TASH
Technical Support Unit Ltd
Terres des Hommes
The Bouncing Ball Trust
The Education Support Program Open Society Foundation*
The Foundation for Tomorrow*
The Life Hood of Children and Development Society (LICHIDE)*
The RISE Institute
Tiraspol State University
TRE for Africa Foundation
Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC)
Uganda Reproductive Health Bureau
Umtata Child Abuse Resource Centre (UCARC)
Unda Gotita de Agua - Fundacion Ecologica y Cultural
UNESCO Center for Global Education
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
Upendo Daima Project for Street Children
Urbis Foundation
Vela Microboard Association
Vision Africa–Give a Child a Future
Viva
Voice Of Young Mothers
VSO International
We are the Present
Wereldkinderen
World Childhood Foundation
World of Inclusion
Young Mothers Support Group
Young Strong Mothers Foundation
Youth Against Debt – Eastern Visayas Chapter
Youth Environment Network
Youth for Peace International
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
Youth Revolution Clan (Y.R.C.)*

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