

The State of the World's Children report, 2025

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Governance

Why in news?

Recently, **UNICEF** has released “The State of the World’s Children 2025: Ending Child Poverty – Our Shared Imperative” report on World Children’s Day (November 20, 2025).

Key findings of the report

- **Global context** - More than 1 in 5 children in **low and middle-income** countries (about 400 million globally) are severely deprived in at least two basic needs out of 6 - **education, health, housing, nutrition, sanitation, clean water**.
 - Substantial levels of child poverty exist around the world, even in high income countries (around 50 million children live in poverty).
- **Extreme (Monetary) poverty** - 412 million children live on less than US\$3 per day.

Monetary poverty - A state where an individual or household's income or spending falls **below a set poverty line**, leaving them without sufficient financial resources to meet a minimum standard of living.

- **Geographical concentration** - **Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia** account for almost 9 out of 10 children living in extreme poverty.
- **Vulnerable groups** - Young children, those with disabilities, and children in conflict or climate crisis zones are most at risk.
- **Major barriers** in ending child poverty - Climate & environmental crises, conflict, and underfunding.
- **India specific insights** -
 - **1 in 5** of the world’s children or approximately 460 million children under 18 years of age, lives in India.
 - **Scale of deprivation** - More than half of 460 million Indian children (about 206 million) lack access to at least one of 6 basic services.
 - Out of the 206 million Indian children - 62 million, lack access to two or more basic services.
 - **National Multidimensional Poverty Index** - 248 million people escaped multidimensional poverty **between 2013-23** (Poverty dropped **from 29.2% to 11.3%**).
 - **Flagship schemes praised** - Poshan Abhiyaan, Samagra Shiksha, PM-KISAN, Mid-Day Meal, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat.

References

1. [The Hindu | State of the World's Children 2025 report](#)
2. [UNICEF | State of the World's Children report](#)
3. [New Indian Express | State of the World's Children report](#)

