



The ‘leave no one behind’ index

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‘As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.’ (UN, 2015)

This commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ is a critical part of Agenda 2030, and meeting it will require a new focus and ways of working across a range of issues and approaches, including data, policy and financing. Early action is vital: inaction in the early years of the SDGs will increase the effort required exponentially (Stuart et al., 2016). If sub-Saharan Africa is to eliminate ultra poverty by 2030, its current progress on this indicator will need to be nearly twice as fast, rising to over three times as fast if no action is taken by 2021.

The ‘leave no one behind’ index monitors the extent to which the 44 governments presenting their National Voluntary Reviews at the 2017 High Level Political Forum are set up to meet this commitment. The index measures governments’ readiness in three areas:

1. **Data:** have household surveys been conducted recently?
2. **Policy:** do countries have some of the core policies in place: are health services free at the point of access; are there anti-discrimination policies in employment; and can women own land?
3. **Finance:** do governments meet agreed spending targets in health, education and social protection?

This analysis is based on a desk-based review of recent country surveys, analysis of country policy documents and centrally compiled information sources, and financing data published by the World Bank, UNESCO, the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization.

The index shows that of the 44 countries presenting national reviews, 25 are ‘ready’ to meet ‘leave no one behind’ commitments, while 18 are ‘partially ready’. Data was unavailable for one country.

Country (in alphabetical order)	Data	Policy	Financing
Afghanistan Overall: Partially Ready	Ready: DHS in 2015	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Argentina Overall: Ready	Partially ready: MICS in 2012/2013 and another planned for 2018	Ready	Partially ready: Meets targets on social protection spending, but not on health or education
Azerbaijan Overall: Partially ready	Not ready: MICS in 2000, more recent surveys could not be found online	Partially ready	Partially ready: Meets targets on social protection spending, but not on health and education
Bangladesh Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS in 2014	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Belarus Overall: Ready	Partially ready: MICS in 2012, and another planned for 2018	Ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on social protection, but not on health or education
Belgium Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Belize Overall: Ready	Ready: MICS in 2015/2016, although it is not yet fully available online	Partially ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on education, but not on health or social protection
Benin Overall: Partially ready	Ready: MICS in 2014, but the full dataset is not yet available	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Botswana Overall: Partially ready	Not ready: Last DHS in 2006, and last MICS in 2000	Partially ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on education, but not on health or social protection
Brazil Overall: Ready	Not ready: Last DHS in 2006	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education and social protection, but not on health
Chile Overall: Ready	Not ready: No comprehensive household surveys could be found online	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Costa Rica Overall: Ready	Partially ready: Last MICS in 2011 and the 2018 survey is in design	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education, health and social protection
Cyprus Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Czech Republic Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education, health and social protection
Denmark Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education, health and social protection
El Salvador Overall: Ready	Ready: MICS in 2014	Partially ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Ethiopia Overall: Ready	Ready: DHS in 2016	Partially ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education and health, but not on social protection
Guatemala Overall: Ready	Ready: DHS in 2014/2015	Partially ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education, health and social protection
Honduras Overall: Ready	Partially ready: Last DHS 2011/2012	Partially ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education and health, but not on social protection
India Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS in 2015/2016	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Indonesia Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS in 2017	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection

Country (in alphabetical order)	Data	Policy	Financing
Iran Overall: Partially ready	Not ready: Last Multiple Indicator DHS in 2010	Not ready	Ready: Meets spending targets for health and social protection, although not for education
Italy Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on social protection, but not health or education
Japan Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual basic CSLC	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets for health and social protection, although not for education
Jordan Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS survey in 2017	Not ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets in social protection but not health or education
Kenya Overall: Partially ready	Ready: MICS 2015 and DHS in 2014	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Luxembourg Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on social protection but not health or education
Malaysia Overall: Partially ready	Not ready: Latest survey found online was the World Health Survey in 2003	Partially ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets in education, but not health or social protection
Maldives Overall: Partially ready	Not ready: Last DHS in 2009	Partially ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on health but not on education. No information is available on social protection spending
Monaco Overall: unknown	No data available	No data available	No data available
Nepal Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS SPA survey in 2015	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Netherlands Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on education, health and social protection
Nigeria Overall: Partially ready	Ready: MICS in 2015	Not ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Panama Overall: Ready	Ready: MICS in 2013	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Peru Overall: Ready	Ready: DHS in 2014	Partially ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Portugal Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on social protection, but not on health or education
Qatar Overall: Partially ready	Partially ready: MICS in 2012	Partially ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Slovenia Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on social protection, but not on health or education
Sweden Overall: Ready	Ready: Conducts annual SILCs	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Tajikistan Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS in 2017	No data available	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on social protection, but not on health or education
Thailand Overall: Partially ready	Partially ready: MICS in 2012/2013	Partially ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on social protection, but not on health or education
Togo Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS in 2013/2014	Not ready	Not ready: Does not meet spending targets on education, health or social protection
Uruguay Overall: Ready	Partially ready: MICS in 2012/2013	Ready	Ready: Meets spending targets on health and social protection, but not on education
Zimbabwe Overall: Partially ready	Ready: DHS in 2015	Partially ready	Partially ready: Meets spending targets on education, but not on health or social protection

Methodology*

1. Data

Countries were scored based on how recently a household survey has been conducted, a key step in enabling them to identify who is being left behind. Results were also cross-checked with other data sources.

Rating

- Ready: countries where surveys have been conducted within the past three years
- Partially ready: countries where surveys have been conducted within the past five years
- Not ready: countries that have not conducted surveys in the last five years

2. Policy

ODI research (see Stuart et al., 2016) has identified three clusters of policy areas that evidence suggests are most effective in leaving no one behind and that align with the identified priorities of marginalised people: key services; public awareness, including anti-discrimination policies and public information campaigns; and institutional and legal reforms.

The index reviews one policy area from each of these clusters: ensuring health services are free at the point of delivery, anti-discrimination laws and legislation on women's land ownership.

Rating

Each country was given a ranking of 0, 0.5 or 1 in each area, according to the degree to which they had the policy or legislation in place and the extent to which it was implemented.

- Ready: countries with an overall score of 2 or above
- Partially ready: countries with an overall score of between 1 and 2
- Not ready: countries with an overall score of less than 1

3. Finance

Countries were assessed according to whether they met internationally agreed targets for spending on health, education and social protection. Spending on these three sectors, in addition to policy commitments, including those outlined above, will be vital for ensuring that no one is left behind (Greenhill et al., 2015).

The targets are:

- Education: meets either of the two targets set out by the Education for All (EFA) coalition: that education should account for 20% of total government expenditure or 6% of GDP.
- Health: meets the Abuja target of 15% of government expenditure going to health. This target was agreed for African countries only but we consider it a reasonable target for other countries too.
- Social protection: meets the ILO minimum threshold of 2.9% of GDP.

Rating

- Ready: countries that met the target in two or more sectors
- Partially ready: countries that meet the target in in one sector
- Not ready: countries that do not meet any of the targets

4. Overall country rating

Rating

Each country was given an overall rating based on their rating across the three areas of data, policy and finance. For each of the three areas, 'ready' was awarded a score of 2, 'partially ready' was given a score of 1 and 'not ready' was a score of 0. The maximum score is 6, i.e. ready in all three areas, and the lowest score is 0, i.e. not ready in all three areas.

- Ready: countries with an overall score of 4 or above
- Partially ready: countries with an overall score of 2 or 3
- Not ready: countries with an overall score of 1 or less

**a detailed methodology is available at www.odi.org/leave-no-one-behind-index*



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