

UNICEF UK RESPONDS TO REPORT ON UK CHILD POVERTY FROM THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

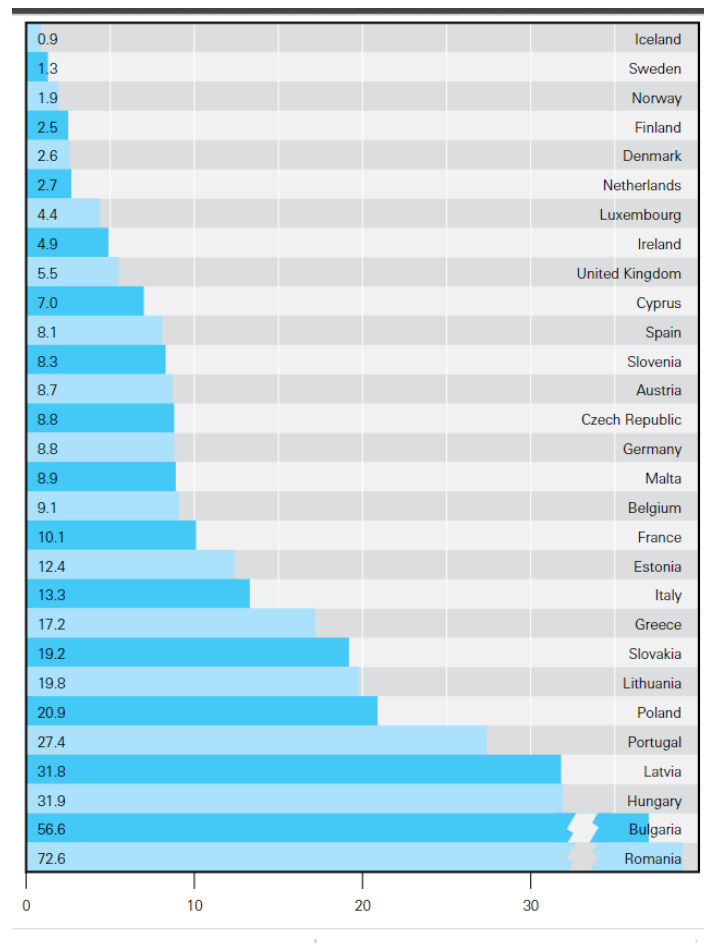
Home > Media Contacts and Press Releases > Unicef UK responds to the report on UK child poverty from the UN Special Rapporteur

Amy Gibbs, Director of Advocacy at Unicef UK, said: “This visit from the UN Special Rapporteur, looking at how cuts to social assistance have impacted children and families, is timely. Evidence shows that 30% of children in the UK were living in poverty in 2016 and 2017 – and forecasts indicate this will only increase without immediate intervention. However, the definition and measurement of child poverty have narrowed significantly and there is no longer a government target for eradication.

“The Special Rapporteur made a number of very serious points that we should all be concerned about. High levels of child poverty jeopardise every child’s right to a happy, healthy and fulfilled future. It is vital that the UK Government recommits to ending child poverty as a national priority and sets out a new, ambitious strategy to achieve this goal. The reporting process under the Sustainable Development Agenda in July 2019 is a crucial opportunity for this.”

Figure 1a shows the percentage of children (aged 1 to 16) who lack two or more of the following 14 items because the households in which they live cannot afford to provide them.

- 1.Three meals a day
- 2.At least one meal a day with meat, chicken or fish (or a vegetarian equivalent)
- 3.Fresh fruit and vegetables every day
- 4.Books suitable for the child’s age and knowledge level (not including schoolbooks)
- 5.Outdoor leisure equipment (bicycle, roller-skates, etc.)
- 6.Regular leisure activities (swimming, playing an instrument, participating in youth organisations etc.)
- 7.Indoor games (at least one per child, including educational baby toys, building blocks, board games, computer games etc.)
- 8.Money to participate in school trips and events
- 9.A quiet place with enough room and light to do homework
- 10.An Internet connection
- 11.Some new clothes (i.e. not all second-hand)
- 12.Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including at least one pair of all-weather shoes)
- 13.The opportunity, from time to time, to invite friends home to play and eat
- 14.The opportunity to celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, name days, religious events, etc.



Source: Calculations based on EU-SILC 2009. The data are drawn from the 2009 round of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and are not available for non-European countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development