United Nations logo **United Nations Human Rights Council**

**United Nations High Commissioner**

**for Human Rights**

**Easy to read**

**Making sure that all children can get enough money and support to help them have a good start in life**

**A person and a child looking at a chart

Description automatically generated**

# A picture containing logo Description automatically generatedAbout this report

We are part of the United Nations (UN).

The United Nations is a group of countries that works together to make the world better and safer.

Shape

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This report is about making sure that all children can get enough money and support to have a good start in life.

This money and support is called **social protection**.

**A person in a suit holding a briefcase

Description automatically generated**

Governments are in charge of giving people this money and support.

Governments are the people who run countries.

A cartoon of a child sitting in a wheelchair

Description automatically generated

Countries should be making sure that all children and their families get enough extra money and support if they need it.

For example, many children in the world do not have enough money to live on.

Or they might have a disability or need extra support to do things every day.

Shape

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There are many ways that countries could give people this money and support.

For example, countries could pay families extra money to get food, medicine, clothes or other things in an emergency.

An emergency might be things like war,

floods or not enough food to eat.

A hand holding a pen and a cheque

Description automatically generated

Countries could also pay families some money called **benefits.**

For example, benefits could be paid to families every week or month to help them buy the things they need.

A child getting off a school bus

Description automatically generatedCountries could also give families things for free or for less money.

Like healthy food, transport to school and free school meals.

**A group of children sitting at desks

Description automatically generated**

Countries should also make sure that all children get other things they need.

Like good health care, education and housing.

A cartoon of a child sitting at a desk

Description automatically generated

This report looks at:

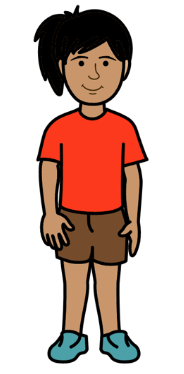
* Why many children are not getting this money and support when they need it.
* Some good work that countries are already doing.
* A group of kids sitting on the floor

  Description automatically generatedWhat countries should do next.

Many countries and people gave us their ideas for this report.

That includes children from different countries.

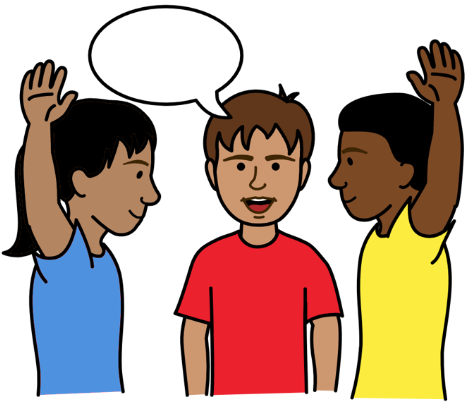
**What is happening at the moment?**



**This includes what children told us.**

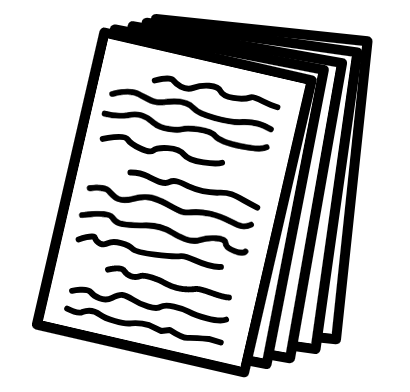
The money and support we talk about in this report is very important.

It can stop problems happening or getting worse for children.



For example, it can help to stop children being poor.

And it can help to make sure that all children are treated fairly and have the same chances to do well.



There are important laws in the world about the rights of all children.

The laws say that all children should have enough support and money to live on when they need it.

**Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Many countries have promised to follow these laws.

A cartoon of a child with his eyes closed

Description automatically generated

But many children and their families are not getting the money and support they need.

This can stop children from having a good life.

A blue bowl with a black stripe

Description automatically generated

For example, children might not have enough healthy food, clean water or clothes to wear.



Or they might not be able to go to school or get a job where they are treated fairly when they are older.

A person and person wearing white and black clothes

Description automatically generated

People might also force children to work or get married if they do not have enough money.

Shape

Description automatically generated**Some problems that stop many children from getting the money and support they need**

Countries might give some children and their families extra money and support.

A cartoon of a person with black hair

Description automatically generated

A picture containing glass, container

Description automatically generatedBut many children and their families are left out.

Or they do not get enough support or money to live on.

A person with a beard and mustache holding a scooter

Description automatically generated

That might include:

* Children with disabilities.
* Children who live in the countryside.

A family standing next to a tent

Description automatically generated

* Children who had to leave their homes because of war or other problems.
* Girls and women.

A cartoon of a child with his eyes closed

Description automatically generatedIt can be hard for many children and their families to get the money and support they need.

That includes health care and education.

A cartoon of a child reading a book

Description automatically generated

For example, the rules about who can get money and support might be hard to understand.

Or the rules might stop some children from getting extra money or support.

A cartoon of a child with his hands up

Description automatically generated

Children and their families might not know what money and support they can get.

Information about the support they can get might be hard to understand.

A black and white rectangular frame with a yellow circle and black lines

Description automatically generated

Children and families might not have the documents they need to get the support.

Like documents to show who they are.

A close-up of papers with pie chart

Description automatically generated

Many countries do not have good information to show them what children need.

**Some good work that countries have done**

Shape

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Some countries have already done good work to help children get what they need.

That includes:

* Paying benefits money to all children in the country.

A cartoon of a person in a wheelchair

Description automatically generated

* More care, education and money for very young children.
* Extra money and support for children who are often left out. Like children with disabilities.

A cartoon of a broken building

Description automatically generated

* Money and support for children and their families in an emergency.
* A cartoon of a person talking

  Description automatically generatedSupport for children to go to school. Like money for children who are poor and free school meals.
* Support for children and young people to take part in making decisions.

**What countries should do next**

A cartoon of a person with crutches

Description automatically generatedA cartoon of a child and a child

Description automatically generated

Countries should make sure that all children can get enough money and support to be safe, happy and healthy.

That includes children who cannot get the money and support they need now.

A person in a judge's robe pointing at a piece of paper

Description automatically generated

All children should get the right money and support for them.

That means making laws and rules that work for all children and their rights.

Shape

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Money and support include:

* Enough benefits money for all children and their families.

A doctor examining a child

Description automatically generated

That means no one is left out.

* Good health care that everyone can get when they need it.
* Good and free education for all children.

A banana corn broccoli and apple

Description automatically generatedMoney and support also include:

* Healthy food that does not cost too much.
* A cartoon of a person in a wheelchair next to a person

  Description automatically generatedGood enough housing.
* Extra money and support for children with disabilities or other children who might need it.

That includes extra money and support for children in an emergency.

Shape

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It also means extra money and support for families.

For example:

* Extra money and support if parents cannot work because they are ill or have a disability.

A baby sleeping in a pink blanket

Description automatically generated

* Giving parents time off work if they have a new baby. Parents should still get paid for this.
* Information and support for parents about how to care for their children in the best way.

A house in water with a window

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceCountries should set up good ways to give money and support to children and their families.

That will help countries to give children money and support more quickly in an emergency.

A cartoon of a person with his hands on his stomach

Description automatically generated

For example, many countries gave people extra support when there was a big illness in the world called Covid-19.

That showed what countries can do.

A hand reaching for a money

Description automatically generated

It should be easy for all children and their families to get the money and support they need.

A cartoon of a child holding a piece of paper

Description automatically generated

For example, all children and families should have information that is easy for them to understand.

The information should be about:

* The money and support they can get.

* How to complain and get help if they do not get the right money and support.

Shape

Description automatically generatedCountries should spend enough money to support children and their families all through their lives.

They should put enough money aside to spend on this.

A cartoon of a person and a child

Description automatically generated

Countries should always work with children to make laws and plans about extra money and support.

That is to make sure the laws and plans work for all children.

A close-up of papers with pie chart

Description automatically generated

Countries should get good information about extra money and support for children and how it is working.

That will help them to know how to give all children enough money and support.

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated

Countries should help each other to make sure that all children have enough money and support.

That will help all children in the world to have a good start in life.

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