

# Universal Periodic Review

## The rights of children in Portugal

Pre-sessions 47  
30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**UNICEF Portugal**  
Beatriz Imperatori

# Child Poverty

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- **National Strategy for Combatting Poverty (2021-2030)** (rec 137.159; 137.153)
- **Child Guarantee National Plan (2022-2030)** (rec 137.220; 137.193; 137.161; 137.157)

## AVAILABLE DATA

- **1 in each 5 children lives at risk of poverty**
- **The effectiveness of social transfers fell by 22% in the last decade**
- **25% of children live in houses with poor conditions**
- **Vulnerabilities:** families with children, risk of institutionalisation, geographic disparities

# Child Poverty

## RECOMMENDATIONS

SDG 1

- Accelerate the **effective and coordinated implementation of national strategies on child poverty** across sectors
- Adopt **multidimensional poverty measures** to capture deprivations beyond income
- Fully implement the **Child Guarantee Action Plan** to address child poverty locally, aligning with the **decentralization process** and ensuring that it does not lead to discrimination in different regions
- **Implement automatic adjustments in social transfers** to reflect the evolving socio-economic landscape impact on children

# Violence Against Children

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- **Working group** established to **tackle child, early and forced marriages** in 2021 (rec 137.190; 139.10)

## AVAILABLE DATA

- It is estimated that **over 140,000 children in Portugal may be victims of sexual violence**
- For **every school day**, there is **one reported sexual offense** against children
- In the past decade, more than **one thousand children officially married**

# Violence Against Children

## RECOMMENDATIONS

SDG 5 & 16

- Amend legislation to **remove all exceptions that allow marriage under the age of 18**
- Implement **prevention programmes and improve access to quality, and specialized support services** accessible to all children, including for reporting all forms of violence
- Evaluate the **effectiveness of the current Child Protection System commissions, in their form, competences and safeguarding role**, preventing violence and supporting families as a pillar for success

# Climate Change

## AVAILABLE DATA

- **20% of children were affected by extreme drought** in Summer 2023
- **2x more heatwaves** and **extremely hot days** compared to the 1960s

## RECOMMENDATIONS

SDG 13

- **Prioritize children in climate policy strategies** aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change
- **Strengthen child-critical social services** to be more climate and disaster resilient, such as health and education systems
- Ensure **meaningful engagement of children** in climate action

# Enhance governance and national coordination

Establish a **high-level entity responsible for children's welfare**, equipped with the authority and resources to coordinate policies and promote comprehensive, cross-sectoral strategies and monitor the realisation of children's rights.

**Thank you for  
your attention**