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Til:
Socialudvalget og
stedfortrædere

København, den 3. december 2010

Ny rapport fra UNICEF: Report card 9: The children left behind – A league table of inequality in child well-being in the world's rich countries

På UNICEF Danmarks vegne sender jeg dig hermed UNICEFs rapport *Report Card 9: The children left behind – A league table of inequality in child well-being in the world's rich countries*.

Rapport viser, at der er mindre ulighed blandt danske børn end blandt børn i de fleste andre rige lande. Dog falder de mest udsatte børn bagud, hvad angår sund kost og motion.

I rapporten har UNICEF lavet en sammenlignende analyse af børns livsvilkår i 24 rige lande. Analysen stiller skarpt på de værst stillede børn og kortlægger ulighederne i forhold til de middelstillede børn i de enkelte lande. Rapporten repræsenterer et øjeblikbillede. Den fokuserer således ikke på, om uligheden over tid er blevet større eller mindre i de enkelte lande.

Rapporten undersøger ulighed i forhold til tre dimensioner: materielle vilkår, skolegang og sundhed. Hver dimension er målt på tre indikatorer. På de to førstnævnte dimensioner er uligheden i Danmark mindre end i langt de fleste andre lande. Ifølge rapporten handler den største ulighed blandt danske børn om sundhed. De udsatte børn spiser meget mindre frugt og grønt og dyrker mindre sport end de middelstillede børn.

Rapporten er en del af en rapportserie, udarbejdet af UNICEFs forskningscenter Innocenti Research Centre i Firenze, der løbende analyserer børns vilkår og rettigheder i OECD-landene.

UNICEF Danmark står meget gerne til rådighed med yderligere information om rapporten. Kontakt venligst undertegnede på telefon 35 27 38 42 eller jebeling@unicef.dk

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UNICEF
Innocenti Research Centre
Report Card 9

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The children left behind

**A league table of inequality in child
well-being in the world's rich countries**

unite for
children

unicef

Innocenti Report Card 9 was written by Peter Adamson.

Part 1 of the Report draws on the analysis carried out by Candace Currie, Dorothy Currie, Leonardo Menchini, Dominic Richardson and Chris Roberts, and presented in the *Innocenti Working Paper 2010-19* (available on the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) website: www.unicef-irc.org).

For *Report Card 9* the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) International Coordinating Centre provided the statistical results for the analysis of inequality in children's health. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provided distributional analysis of child well-being indicators for material well-being and educational outcomes. HBSC and the OECD are not responsible for the interpretation of these results or other analysis in this report. The project was coordinated by the UNICEF IRC.

The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre would like to acknowledge the generous support for *Report Card 9* provided by the Andorran, Australian, Belgian, German, Swiss and United Kingdom National Committees for UNICEF.

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UNICEF (2010), 'The Children Left Behind: A league table of inequality in child well-being in the world's rich countries', *Innocenti Report Card 9*, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence.

The *Report Card* series is designed to monitor and compare the performance of economically advanced countries in securing the rights of their children.

The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy, was established in 1988 to strengthen the research capability of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and to support its advocacy for children worldwide.

The Centre helps to identify and research current and future areas of UNICEF's work. Its prime objectives are to improve international understanding of issues relating to children's rights and to help facilitate the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in all countries.

The Centre's publications are contributions to a global debate on child rights issues and include a wide range of opinions. The views expressed are those of the author and researchers and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNICEF.

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THE CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

A league table of inequality in child well-being in the world's rich countries

Fig. 1a A league table of inequality in child well-being

The table summarizes the findings of Report Card 9, ranking 24 OECD countries by their performance in each of three dimensions of inequality in child well-being.

inequality lower than OECD average		inequality close to OECD average		inequality higher than OECD average	
Material well-being	rank	Education well-being	rank	Health well-being	rank
Switzerland	1	Finland	1	Netherlands	1
Iceland	2	Ireland	2	Norway	2
Netherlands	3	Canada	3	Portugal	3
Denmark	4	Denmark	4	Germany	4
France	5	Poland	5	Switzerland	5
Finland	6	Hungary	6	Belgium	6
Austria	7	Sweden	7	Ireland	7
Norway	8	Netherlands	8	Denmark	8
Sweden	9	Spain	9	Canada	9
Germany	10	Iceland	10	Czech Republic	10
Czech Republic	11	Norway	11	United Kingdom	11
Luxembourg	12	Switzerland	12	Slovakia	12
Ireland	13	United Kingdom	13	Austria	13
Spain	14	Portugal	14	Sweden	14
Belgium	15	Slovakia	15	France	15
Portugal	16	Luxembourg	16	Finland	16
Canada	17	Czech Republic	17	Iceland	17
Greece	18	Greece	18	Poland	18
United Kingdom	19	United States	19	Luxembourg	19
Italy	20	Germany	20	Greece	20
Poland	21	Italy	21	Spain	21
Hungary	22	Austria	22	United States	22
United States	23	France	23	Italy	23
Slovakia	24	Belgium	24	Hungary	24

Figs. 1a and 1b are limited to the 24 OECD countries with available data for all three dimensions of inequality in child well-being.

Note: To compare the inequality performance of the featured countries in each dimension of child well-being, inequality scores for the individual indicators used are first converted to standard scores (i.e. inequality is measured in standard deviations from the OECD unweighted average). The standardized scores are then averaged to arrive at an inequality score for each dimension. For purposes of Figs. 1a and 1b, 'inequality close to average' is defined as a score within the range of

-0.5 to +0.5 standard deviations from the OECD average. 'inequality lower than OECD average' is defined as having a standard deviation score greater than +0.5 from the OECD unweighted average. 'inequality higher than OECD average' is defined as having a standard score of less than -0.5 from the OECD unweighted average.

Source: See page 30 (Data for Report Card 9: the surveys) for data sources used in the measurement of inequality in the different dimensions of children's well-being.

Fig. 1b The overall record

Figure 1b ranks each country by its overall inequality record. Three points have been awarded for a better than average performance at or close to the OECD average, 2 points for a performance at or close to the OECD average, and 1 point for a below average performance (see note for definitions). Countries in alphabetical order within groups.

Higher score = greater equality	
8	Denmark
	Finland
	Netherlands
	Switzerland
7	Iceland
	Ireland
	Norway
	Sweden
6	Austria
	Canada
	France
	Germany
	Poland
	Portugal
5	Belgium
	Czech Republic
	Hungary
	Luxembourg
	Slovakia
	Spain
	United Kingdom
3	Greece
	Italy
	United States

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