

CHILD MALNUTRITION ESTIMATES

Key findings of the 2020 Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates
UNICEF regions



STUNTING

144 million

Stunting affected an estimated 21.3 per cent or 144 million children under 5 globally in 2019.



WASTING

47 million

In 2019, wasting continued to threaten the lives of an estimated 6.9 per cent or 47 million children under 5 globally.



OVERWEIGHT

38 million

An estimated 5.6 per cent or 38.3 million children under 5 around the world were overweight in 2019.

These new estimates supersede former analyses and results published by UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank Group.



The ultimate aim is for all children to be free of malnutrition in all its forms

Good nutrition allows children to survive, grow, develop, learn, play, participate and contribute – while malnutrition robs children of their futures and leaves young lives hanging in the balance.

Stunting is the devastating result of poor nutrition in-utero and early childhood. Children suffering from stunting may never attain their full possible height and their brains may never develop to their full cognitive potential. Globally, 144.0 million children under 5 suffer from stunting. These children begin their lives at a marked disadvantage: they face learning difficulties in school, earn less as adults, and face barriers to participation in their communities.

Wasting in children is the life-threatening result of poor nutrient intake and/or disease. Children suffering from wasting have weakened immunity, are susceptible to long term developmental delays, and face an increased risk of death, particularly when wasting is severe. These children require urgent feeding, treatment and care to survive. In 2019, 47.0 million children under 5 were wasted of which 14.3 million were severely wasted.

There is also an emerging face of malnutrition: childhood overweight and obesity. There are now 38.3 million overweight children globally, an increase of 8 million since 2000. The emergence of overweight and obesity has been shaped, at least in part, by industry marketing and greater

access to processed foods, along with lower levels of physical activity.

While malnutrition can manifest in multiple ways, the path to prevention is virtually identical: adequate maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy and lactation; optimal breastfeeding in the first two years of life; nutritious, diverse and safe foods in early childhood; and a healthy environment, including access to basic health, water, hygiene and sanitation services and opportunities for safe physical activity. These key ingredients can deliver a world where children are free from all forms of malnutrition.

Despite this opportunity, the UNICEF, WHO, World Bank global and regional child malnutrition estimates reveal that we are still far from a world without malnutrition. The joint estimates, published in March 2020, cover indicators of stunting, wasting, severe wasting and overweight among children under 5, and reveal insufficient progress to reach the World Health Assembly targets set for 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals set for 2030.

Improving children’s nutrition requires effective and sustained multi-sectoral nutrition programming over the long term, and many countries are moving in the right direction. Regular data collection is critical to monitor and analyse country, regional and global progress going forward.

Forms of malnutrition* highlighted in this key findings report



Stunting refers to a child who is too short for his or her age. These children can suffer severe irreversible physical and cognitive damage that accompanies stunted growth. The devastating effects of stunting can last a lifetime and even affect the next generation.



Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for his or her height. Wasting is the result of recent rapid weight loss or the failure to gain weight. A child who is moderately or severely wasted has an increased risk of death, but treatment is possible.



Overweight refers to a child who is too heavy for his or her height. This form of malnutrition results from energy intakes from food and beverages that exceed children’s energy requirements. Overweight increases the risk of diet-related noncommunicable diseases later in life.



Overweight and stunted



Stunted and wasted

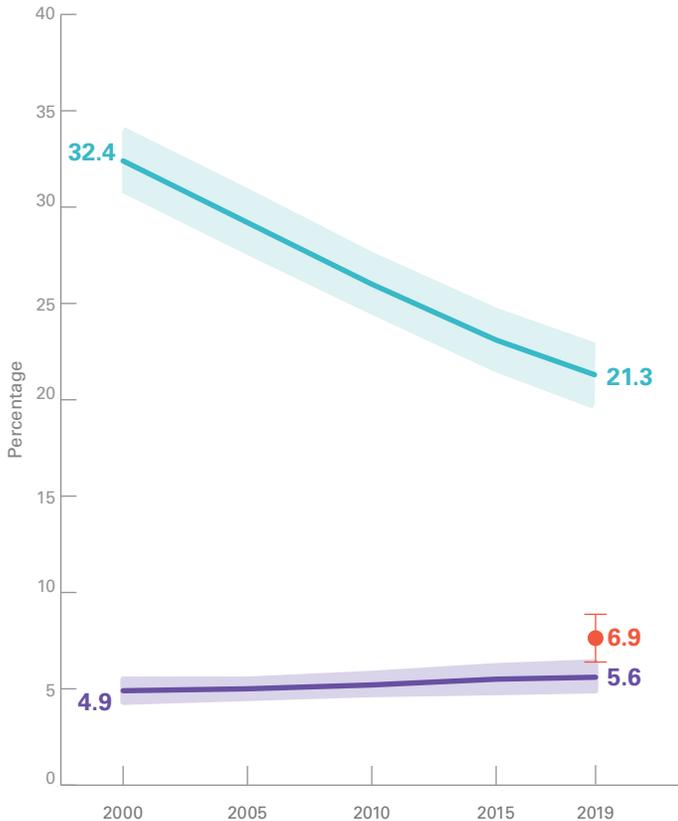
* Some children suffer from more than one form of malnutrition – such as **stunting and overweight** or **stunting and wasting**. There are currently no joint global or regional estimates for these combined conditions.



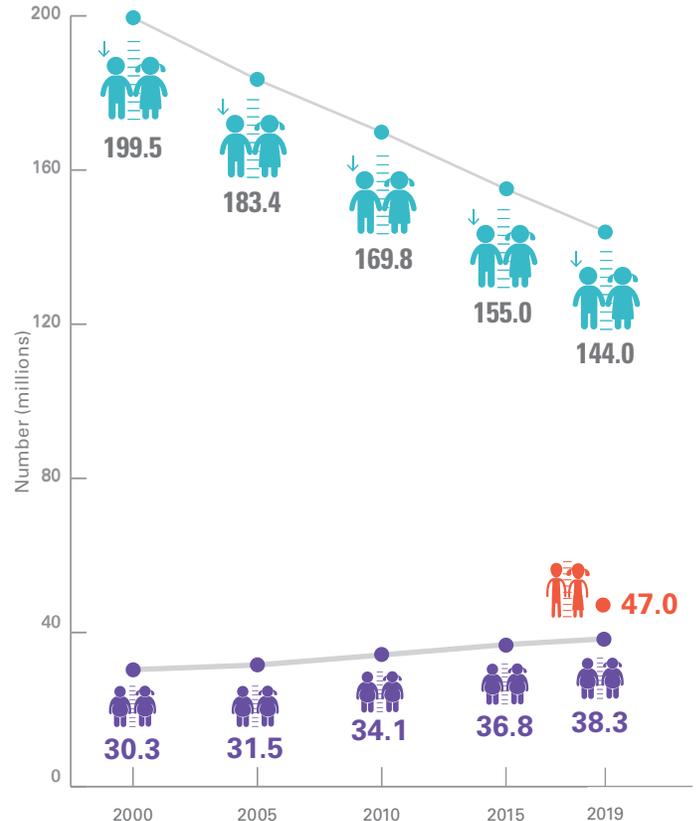
GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Malnutrition rates remain alarming. Stunting is declining too slowly while wasting still impacts the lives of far too many young children

stunting
 wasting
 overweight
 95% confidence interval



Percentage of stunted, overweight and wasted children under 5, global, 2000–2019



Number (millions) of stunted, overweight and wasted children under 5, global, 2000–2019

Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. See Notes on Data on page 14 on why only one time point is presented for wasting on the graphs above.

Africa and Asia bear the greatest share of all forms of malnutrition



In 2019, more than half of all **stunted** children under 5 lived in Asia and two out of five lived in Africa.

In 2019, more than two thirds of all **wasted** children under 5 lived in Asia and more than one quarter lived in Africa.

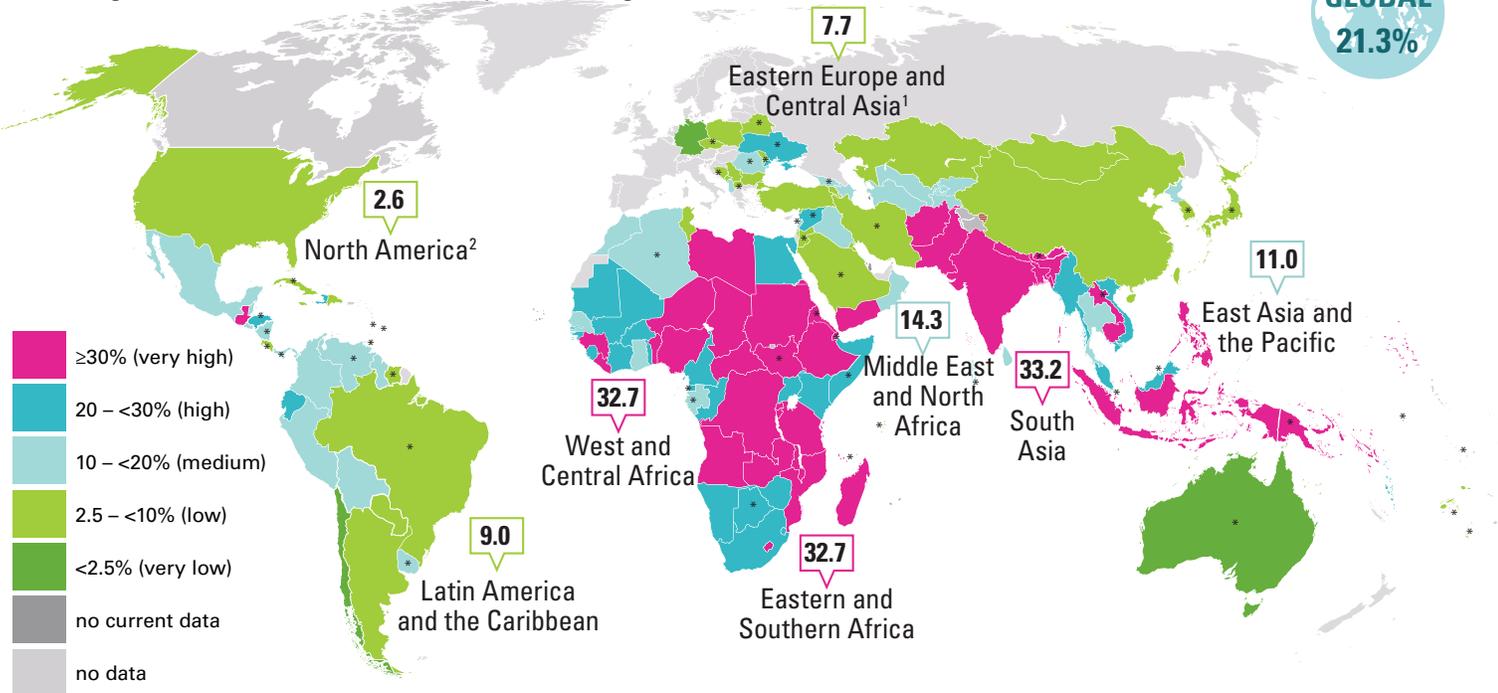
In 2019, almost half of all **overweight** children under 5 lived in Asia and one quarter lived in Africa.

The shares above are derived for United Nations regions as the global total is based on a model for United Nations regions, whereas the sum of UNICEF regional estimates do not add up to global total.

Stunting PREVALENCE

In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, one in three children under 5 are stunted

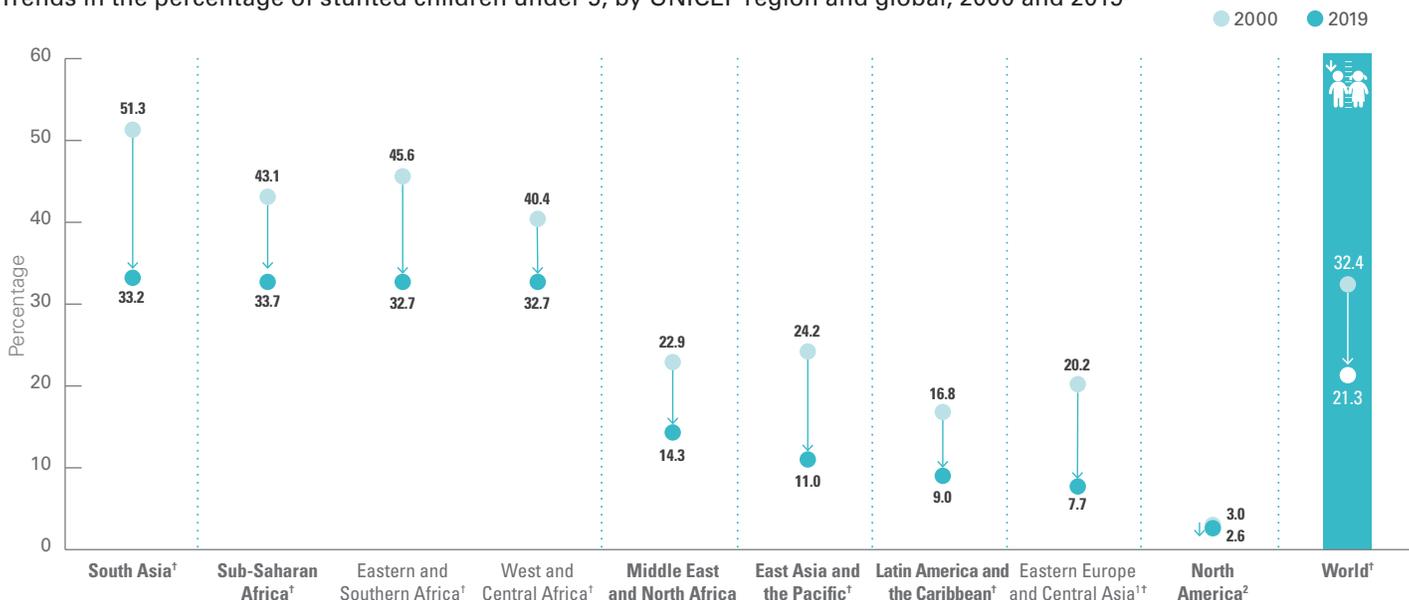
Percentage of stunted children under 5, by UNICEF regions, 2019



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2020 edition. Note: Country data are the most recent available estimate between 2013 and 2019; exceptions where older data (2000–2012) are shown are denoted with an asterisk(*) and where only data prior to 2000 are available the dark grey color is used denoting no recent data. 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. 2. North America estimate based on United States data only.

Globally, stunting declined from approximately one in three to one in five between 2000 and 2019

Trends in the percentage of stunted children under 5, by UNICEF region and global, 2000 and 2019



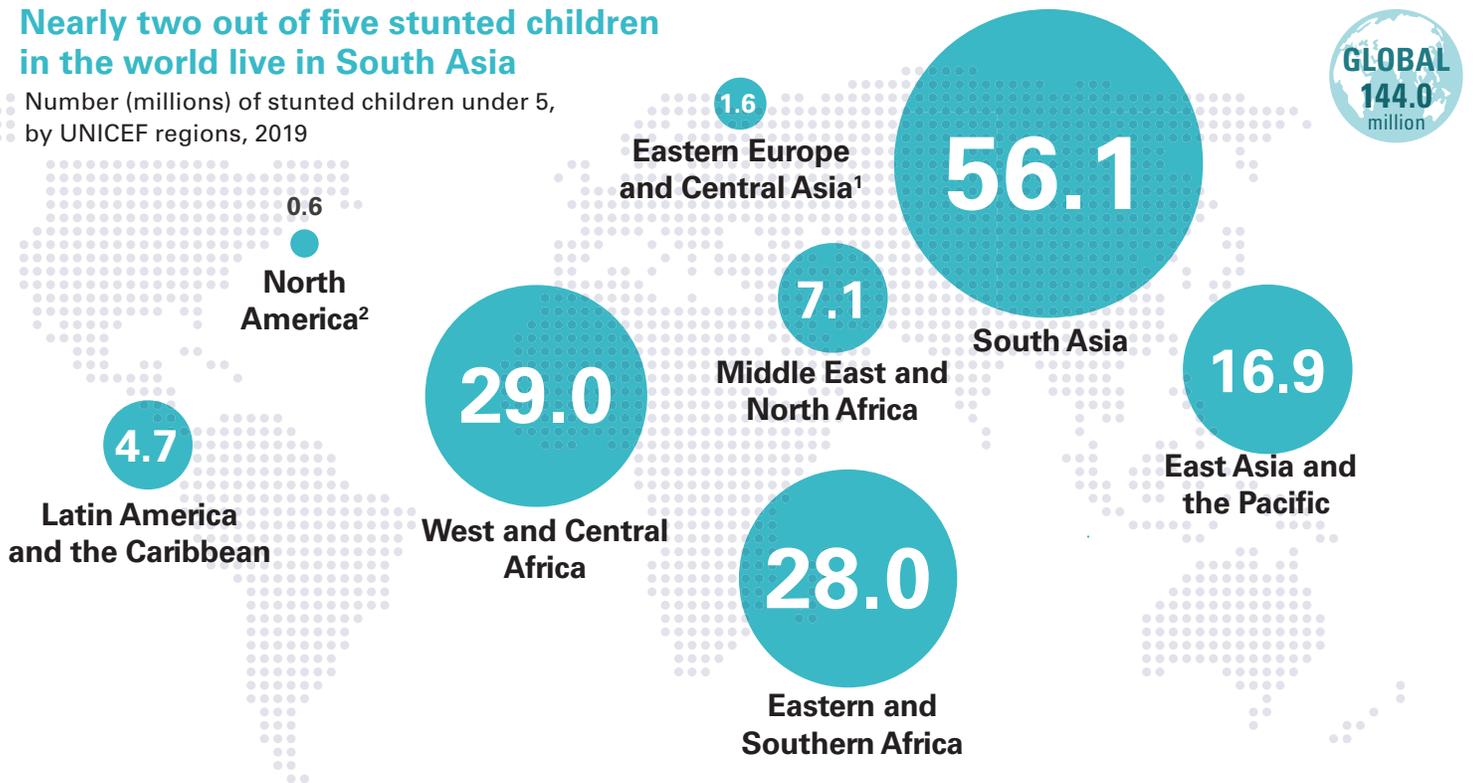
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. 2. North America regional average based on United States data only. [†]denotes regions where the change has been statistically significant; see page 12 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

Stunting

NUMBERS AFFECTED

Nearly two out of five stunted children in the world live in South Asia

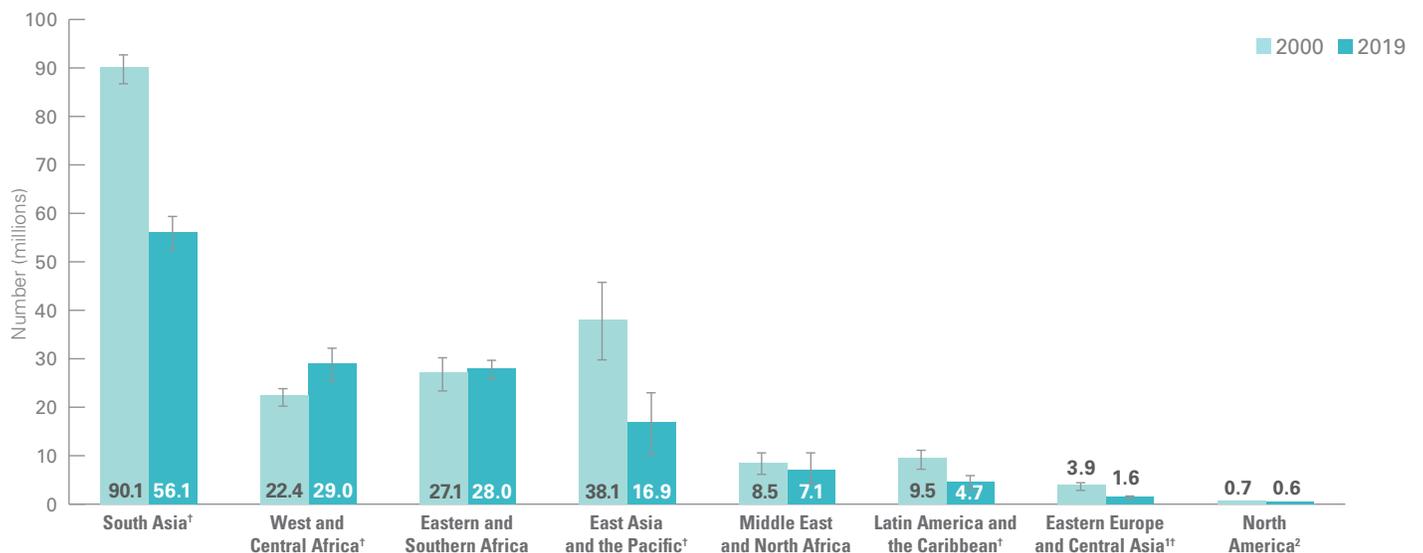
Number (millions) of stunted children under 5, by UNICEF regions, 2019



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. 2. North America estimate based on United States data. The sum of UNICEF regional estimates do not add up to global total as the global total is based on a model for United Nations regions.

The number of stunted children in West and Central Africa has increased by more than 6 million since 2000

Number (millions) of stunted children under 5, by UNICEF region, 2000 and 2019



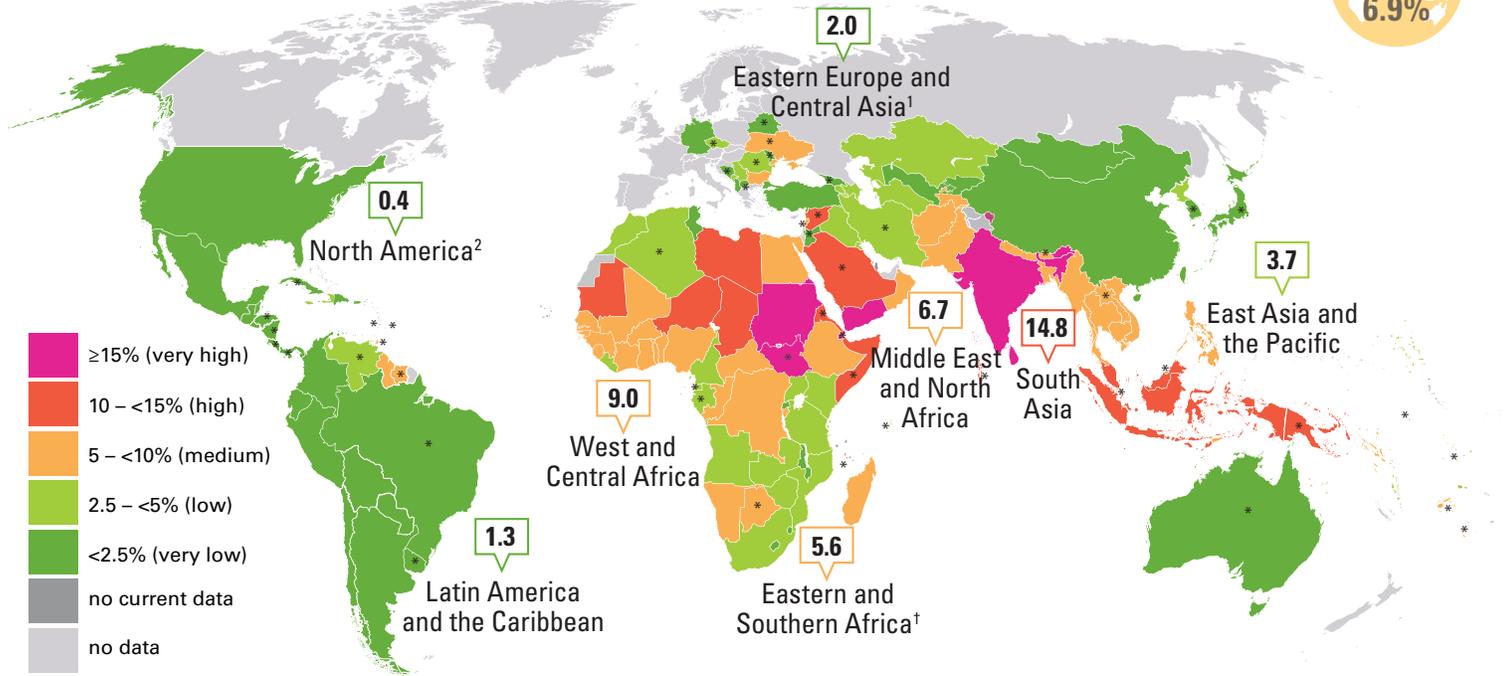
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2020 edition. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia region does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. 2. The North America estimates are based on United States data. [†]denotes regions where the change has been statistically significant; see page 13 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.



Wasting PREVALENCE

South Asia is the only region with a very high wasting prevalence

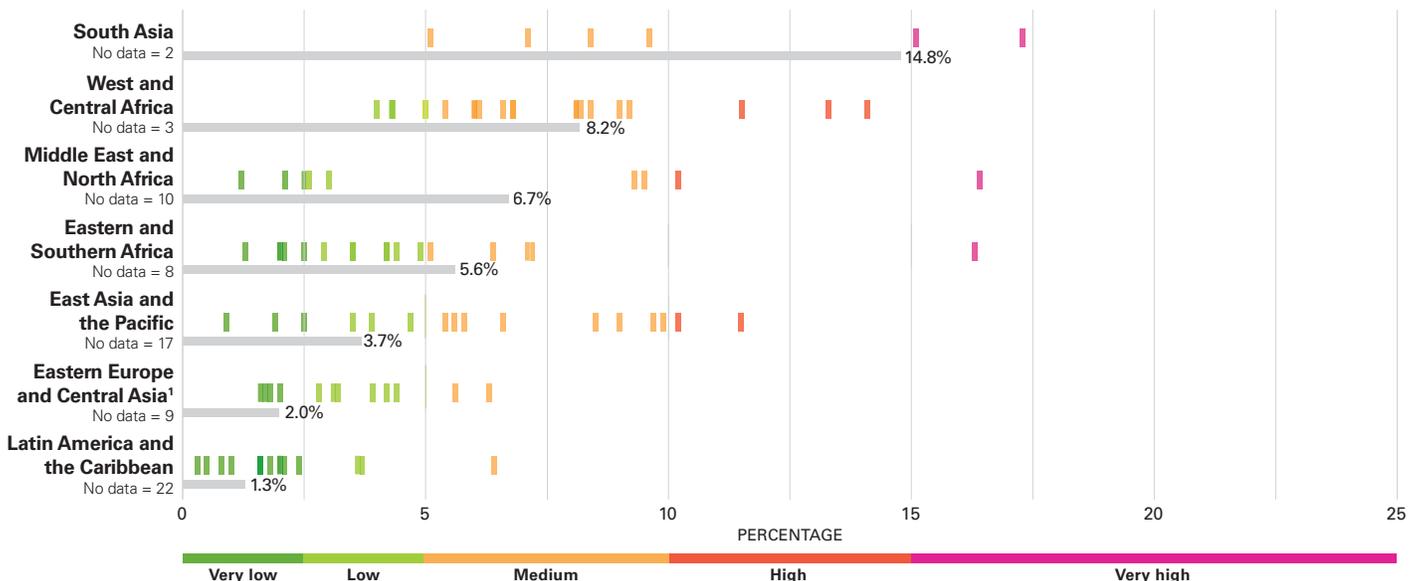
Percentage of wasted children under 5, by UNICEF region, 2019



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2020 edition. Note: Country data are the most recent available estimate between 2013 and 2019; exceptions where older data (2000–2012) are shown are denoted with an asterisk(*) and where only data prior to 2000 are available the dark grey color is used denoting no recent data. 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. 2. North America regional average based on United States data only.

Regional averages can mask wide variations in country prevalence

Percentage of wasted children under 5, by country (dots) and region (bars), 2019



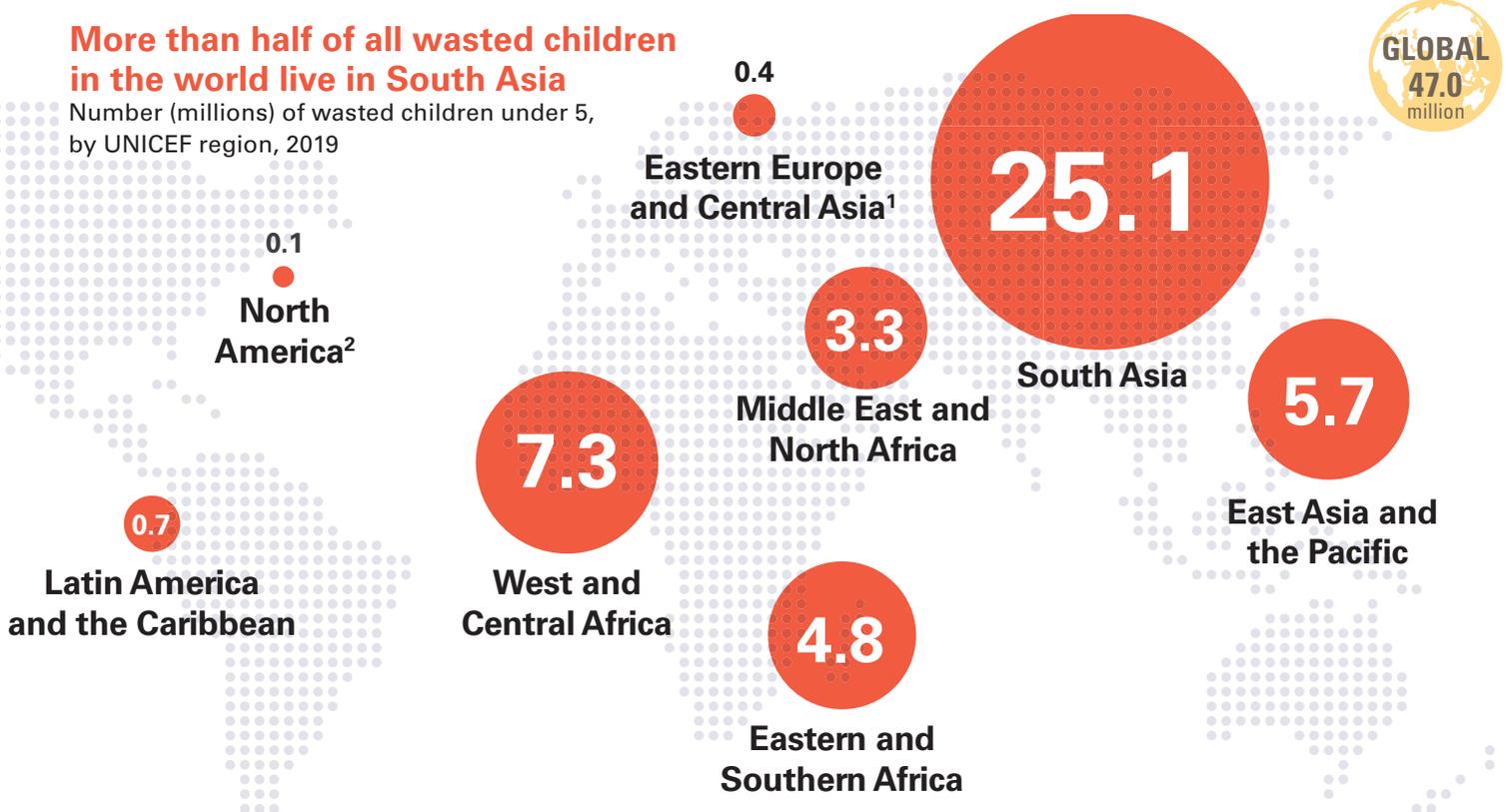
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Each marker refers to the most recent estimate between 2013 and 2019 for each country in each region; “no data” refers to the number of countries without an estimate or for which the most recent estimate is before 2013. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional average does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. North America is not shown as it only includes 2 countries, of which only one has data.

Wasting

NUMBERS AFFECTED

More than half of all wasted children in the world live in South Asia

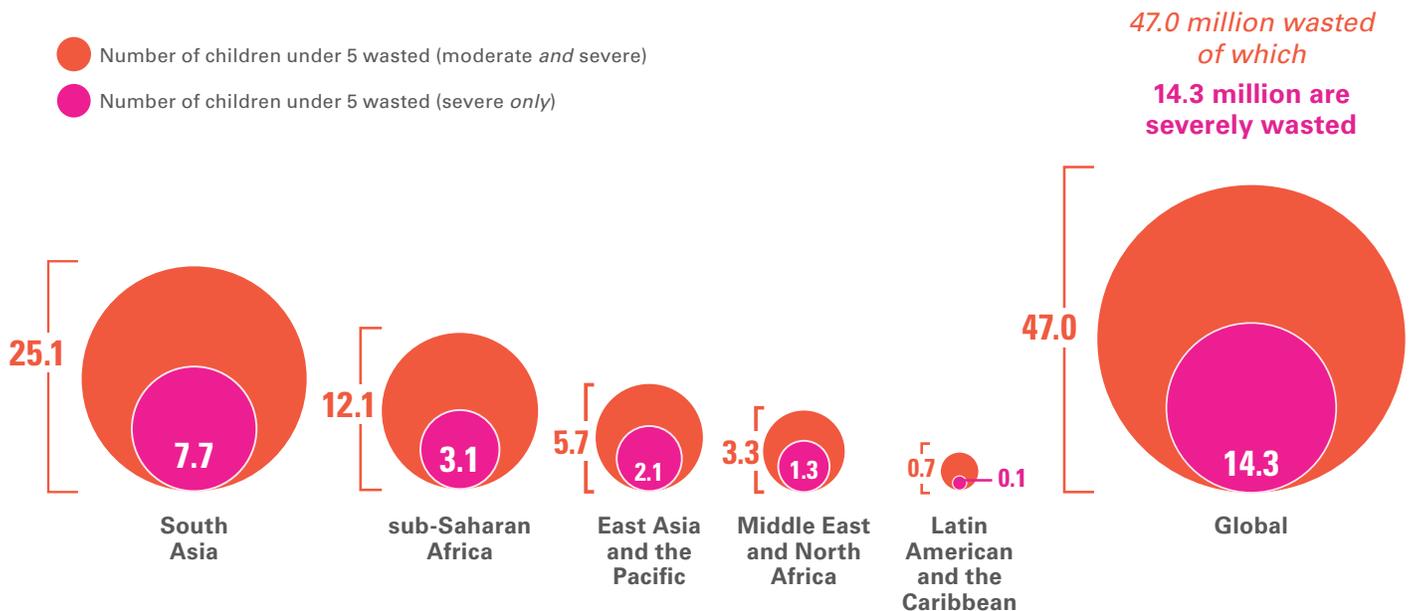
Number (millions) of wasted children under 5, by UNICEF region, 2019



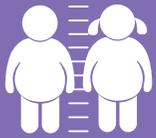
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. 2. North America estimate based on United States data. The sum of UNICEF regional estimates do not add up to global total as the global total is based on a model for United Nations regions.

One in every three wasted children under 5 is severely wasted

Number (millions) of wasted and severely wasted children under 5, by UNICEF region and global, 2019



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: North America as well as Europe and Central Asia are not shown due to very small numbers for severely wasted; there is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage.

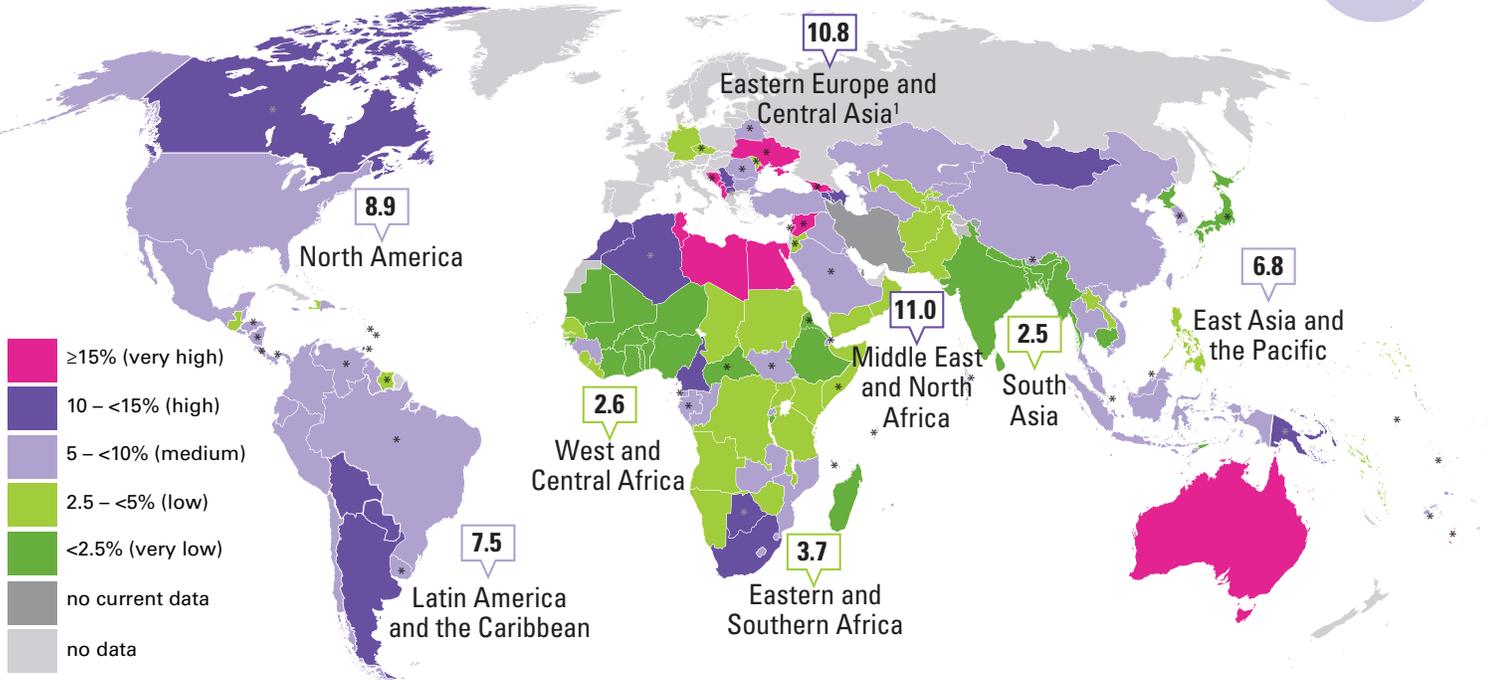


Overweight PREVALENCE

In two regions, at least one in every ten children under five is overweight

Percentage of overweight children under 5, by UNICEF region, 2019

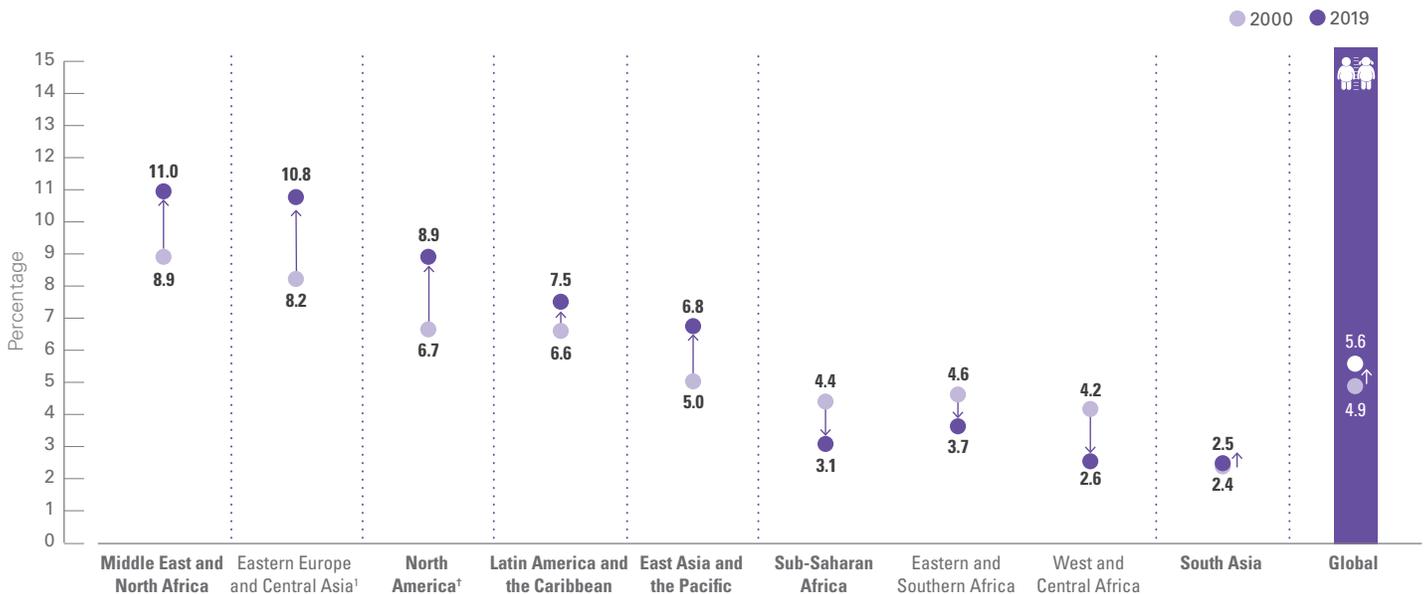
GLOBAL
5.6%



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: Country data are the most recent available estimate between 2013 and 2019; exceptions where older data (2000–2012) are shown are denoted with an asterisk(*) and where only data prior to 2000 are available the dark grey color is used denoting no recent data. 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage.

There has been no progress to stem the rate of overweight in nearly 20 years

Trends in the percentage of overweight children under 5, by UNICEF region and global, 2000–2019



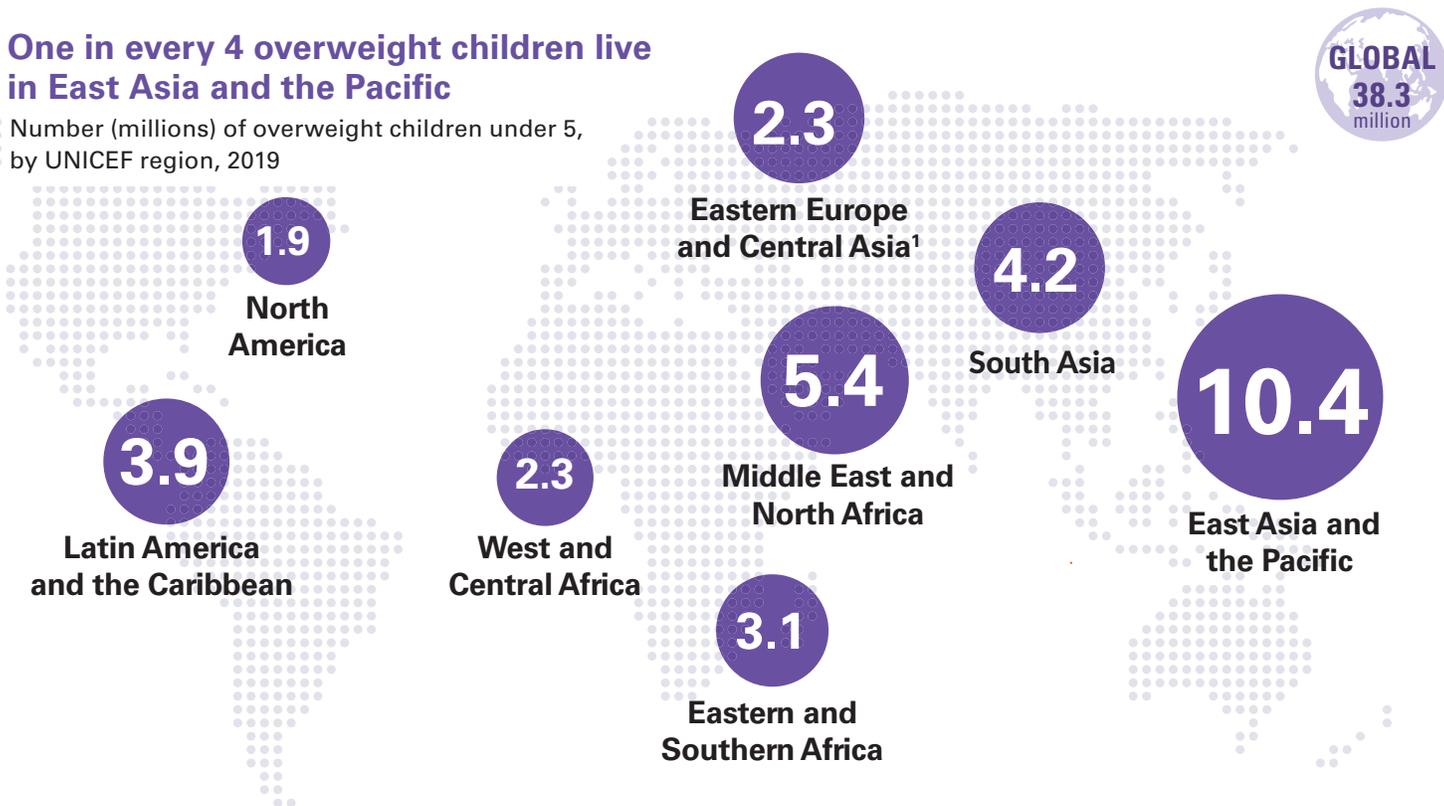
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. †denotes regions where the change has been statistically significant; see page 12 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

Overweight

NUMBERS AFFECTED

One in every 4 overweight children live in East Asia and the Pacific

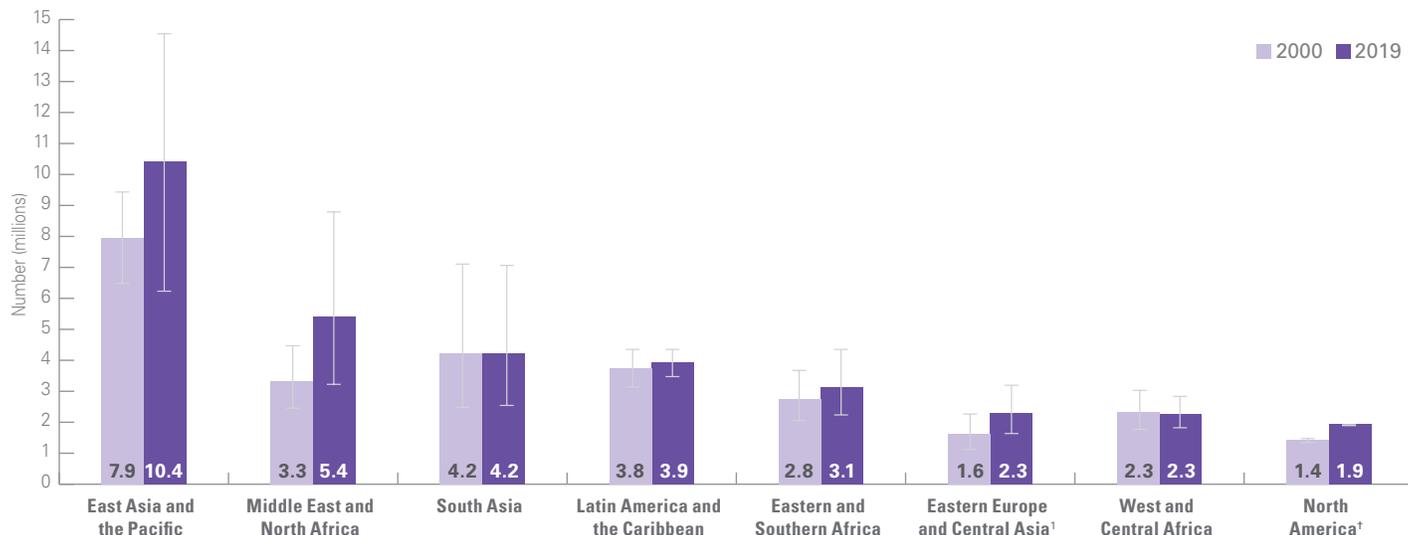
Number (millions) of overweight children under 5, by UNICEF region, 2019



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. The sum of UNICEF regional estimates do not add up to global total as the global total is based on a model for United Nations regions.

North America is the only region which had a significant increase in the number of overweight children since 2000

Number (millions) of overweight children under 5, by UNICEF region, 2000 and 2019

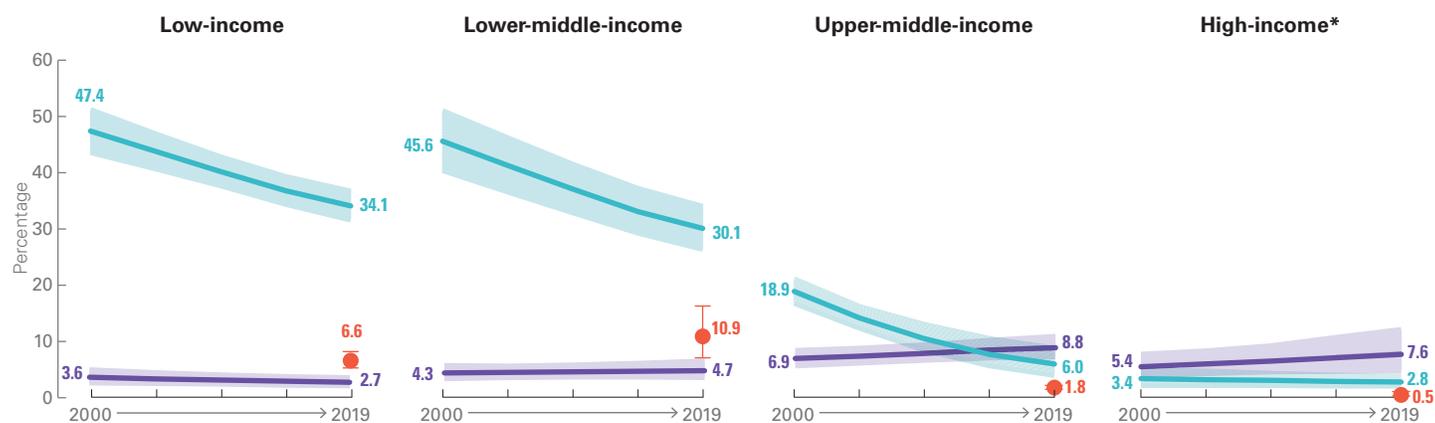


Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2020 edition. Note: 1. Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include Russian Federation due to missing data. There is no estimate available for the Europe and Central Asia region or the Western Europe sub-region, due to insufficient population coverage. †denotes regions where the change has been statistically significant; see page 13 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

TRENDS

Upper-middle-income countries reduced their stunting prevalence by more than two-thirds since 2000, while low-income and lower-middle income countries only achieved a decrease of one third

Percentage of stunted, overweight and wasted children under 5, by country income classification, 2000 – 2019

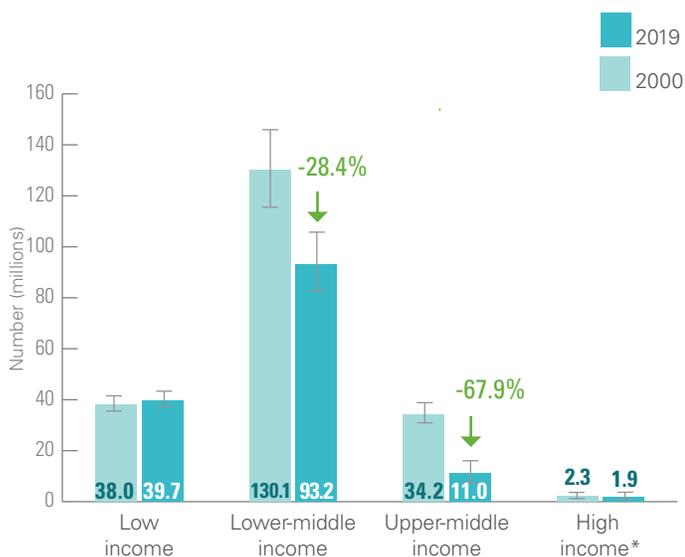


Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition.
 Note: *High-income countries: low (<50 per cent) population coverage in all time periods for overweight and wasting, and consecutive low population coverage in 2000 for stunting; interpret with caution.

stunting
 wasting
 overweight
 95% confidence interval

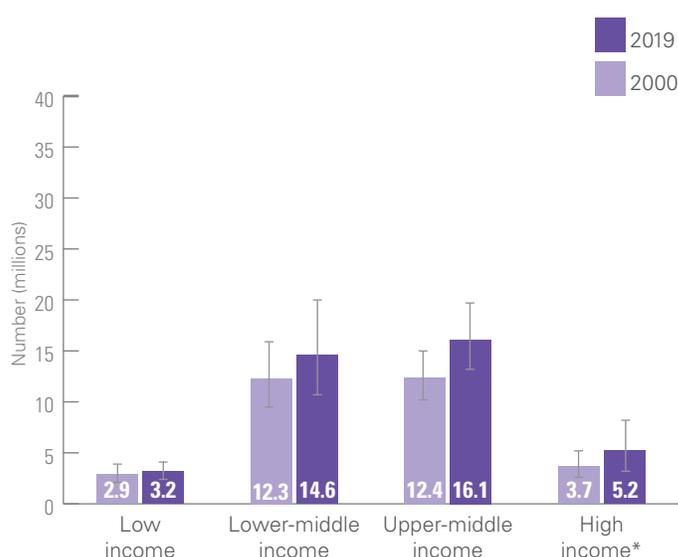
Upper-middle-income countries have the largest relative declines in the number of stunted children of all income groups

Number of stunted children under 5, by country income classification, 2000 and 2019



There has been no progress to stem the rate of overweight in nearly 20 years in any country-income group

Number of overweight children under 5, by country income classification, 2000 and 2019



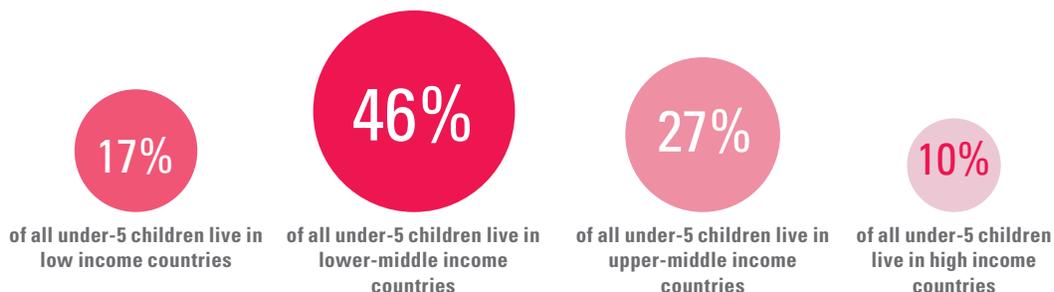
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2020 edition. Note: *High-income countries: consecutive low (<50 per cent) population coverage in 2000 and 2019 for overweight and in 2000 for stunting; interpret with caution. Based on FY2020 World Bank income classification. The values for “percentage change since 2000” are based on calculations using unrounded estimates and therefore might not match values calculated using the rounded estimates presented in this brochure.

Country Income Classification

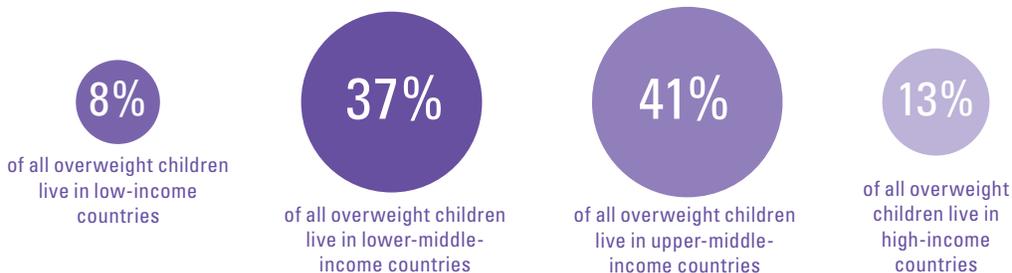
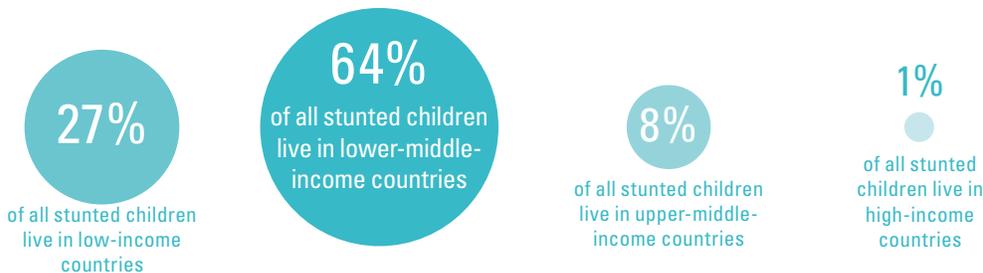
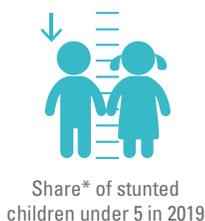
SHARE BY REGION

While only about half of all children under-5 live in lower-middle income countries, two-thirds of all stunted children and three-quarters of all wasted children live there

Distribution of children under-5 in the world, by country income grouping, 2019



Distribution of children under 5 affected by stunting, overweight and wasting in 2019



*Share is relative to the total number affected across the 4 country-income groups; this varies from the global totals reported elsewhere in this brochure because the official JME global total is based on a model of United Nations regions. The differences are as follows: Stunting official global estimate 144.0 million; sum of 4 country-income groups = 145.8 million. Wasting official global estimate 47.0 million; sum of country-income groups = 45.3 million. Overweight official global estimate 38.3 million; sum of 4 country-income groups = 39.1 million).

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PREVALENCE TABLE*

	Stunting		Wasting and Severe Wasting				Overweight	
	2000	2019	2019	2019	2019	2000	2019	
	% stunted (moderate and severe)	% stunted (moderate and severe)	% wasted (moderate and severe)	% wasted (severe)	% wasted (severe)	% overweight (moderate and severe)	% overweight (moderate and severe)	
Global	32.4 [30.9-34.0]	21.3 [19.7-22.8]	6.9 [5.7-8.2]	2.1 [1.6-2.6]		4.9 [4.3-5.5]	5.6 [4.9-6.4]	
United Nations Regions								
Less Developed Regions¹								
Africa	37.9 [35.6-40.2]	29.1 [26.8-31.4]	6.4 [5.4-7.5]	1.8 [1.4-2.1]		5.0 [4.1-5.9]	4.7 [3.5-6.0]	
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	45.8 [41.2-50.5]	34.5 [30.7-38.5]	5.3 [3.8-7.4]	1.1 [0.8-1.5]		4.8 [3.7-6.2]	3.7 [2.9-4.6]	
<i>Middle Africa</i>	39.7 [34.1-45.6]	31.5 [26.4-37.0]	6.7 [5.1-8.7]	2.2 [1.7-2.9]		4.3 [2.9-6.4]	5.1 [3.3-7.6]	
<i>Northern Africa</i>	24.2 [18.1-31.6]	17.6 [11.6-25.7]	7.2 [3.6-13.9]	3.1 [1.6-6.2]		8.4 [4.8-14.4]	11.3 [5.6-21.5]	
<i>Southern Africa</i>	32.8 [28.7-37.2]	29.0 [25.5-32.8]	3.3 [2.2-4.8]	0.9 [0.6-1.2]		10.2 [7.1-14.4]	12.7 [8.6-18.3]	
<i>Western Africa</i>	36.0 [33.1-39.1]	27.7 [23.8-32.0]	7.5 [6.5-8.6]	1.8 [1.5-2.2]		3.0 [2.3-4.0]	1.9 [1.4-2.5]	
Asia²	37.8 [35.5-40.2]	21.8 [19.3-24.3]	9.1 [6.9-11.3]	2.9 [2.1-3.8]		4.0 [3.3-4.7]	4.8 [3.8-5.8]	
<i>Central Asia</i>	28.2 [21.5-36.0]	9.9 [7.9-12.3]	2.4 [1.6-3.6]	0.6 [0.2-1.6]		9.6 [5.9-15.2]	6.2 [3.3-11.3]	
<i>Eastern Asia²</i>	19.2 [17.8-20.6]	4.5 [4.1-4.9]	1.7 [1.6-1.8]	0.4 [0.4-0.4]		6.4 [5.8-7.1]	6.3 [5.5-7.2]	
<i>Southern Asia</i>	49.7 [45.6-53.9]	31.7 [27.3-36.4]	14.3 [10.4-19.3]	4.4 [3.1-6.2]		2.4 [1.5-4.1]	2.5 [1.5-4.4]	
<i>South-eastern Asia</i>	38.5 [32.7-44.7]	24.7 [18.7-31.9]	8.2 [5.9-11.4]	3.6 [1.7-7.6]		3.2 [2.5-4.0]	7.5 [4.3-12.6]	
<i>Western Asia</i>	23.0 [16.0-31.8]	12.7 [6.2-24.0]	3.7 [1.5-8.7]	1.1 [0.4-2.8]		6.7 [4.9-9.2]	8.4 [4.6-15.0]	
Latin American and Caribbean	16.8 [13.3-20.2]	9.0 [6.1-11.8]	1.3 [0.8-1.7]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]		6.6 [5.5-7.7]	7.5 [6.7-8.4]	
<i>Caribbean</i>	15.3 [7.5-28.7]	8.1 [3.5-17.8]	2.9 [2.1-4.0]	0.9 [0.8-1.1]		5.1 [3.9-6.5]	7.0 [3.6-13.2]	
<i>Central America</i>	23.7 [16.6-32.8]	12.6 [8.0-19.3]	0.9 [0.7-1.0]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]		5.9 [4.7-7.3]	6.9 [5.9-8.2]	
<i>South America</i>	13.8 [10.4-18.0]	7.3 [4.3-11.9]	1.3 [0.8-2.3]	0.2 [0.1-0.5]		7.1 [5.7-8.9]	7.9 [6.9-9.1]	
Oceania³	37.0 [20.2-57.6]	38.4 [21.9-58.1]	9.5 [5.9-15.0]	3.6 [2.8-4.5]		4.7 [3.3-6.5]	9.4 [6.1-14.4]	
More Developed Regions								
Australia and New Zealand⁴	0.8	-	-	-		8.7 [0.0-22.4]	20.7 [4.8-36.5]	
Europe	-	-	-	-		-	-	
Northern America⁴	3.0	2.6	0.4	0.0		6.7 [6.4-6.9]	8.9 [8.6-9.2]	
UNICEF Regions								
East Asia and Pacific	24.2 [19.1-29.3]	11.0 [6.9-15.1]	3.7 [2.2-5.2]	1.4 [0.3-2.5]		5.0 [4.1-6.0]	6.8 [4.1-9.5]	
Europe and Central Asia⁶	-	-	-	-		-	-	
<i>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</i>	20.2 [16.4-24.5]	7.7 [6.4-9.1]	2.0 [1.4-2.9]	0.5 [0.3-0.9]		8.2 [5.8-11.6]	10.8 [7.7-15.0]	
<i>Western Europe</i>	-	-	-	-		-	-	
Latin America and Caribbean	16.8 [13.3-20.2]	9.0 [6.1-11.8]	1.3 [0.8-1.7]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]		6.6 [5.5-7.7]	7.5 [6.7-8.4]	
Middle East and North Africa	22.9 [17.5-29.3]	14.3 [9.0-21.9]	6.7 [4.1-10.8]	2.7 [1.4-5.1]		8.9 [6.6-12.0]	11.0 [6.6-17.8]	
North America⁴	3.0	2.6	0.4	0.0		6.7 [6.4-6.9]	8.9 [8.6-9.2]	
South Asia	51.3 [49.6-53.0]	33.2 [31.2-35.3]	14.8 [11.3-19.2]	4.5 [3.3-6.2]		2.4 [1.4-4.0]	2.5 [1.5-4.2]	
Sub-Saharan Africa	43.1 [39.7-46.5]	32.7 [30.5-34.9]	6.9 [6.0-7.9]	1.8 [1.5-2.1]		4.4 [3.5-5.3]	3.1 [2.4-3.8]	
<i>East and Southern Africa</i>	45.6 [39.9-51.4]	32.7 [30.6-35.0]	5.6 [4.1-7.7]	1.3 [0.9-1.8]		4.6 [3.5-6.2]	3.7 [2.6-5.1]	
<i>West and Central Africa</i>	40.4 [37.2-43.7]	32.7 [29.0-36.6]	8.2 [7.4-9.1]	2.3 [1.9-2.8]		4.2 [3.2-5.5]	2.6 [2.0-3.2]	
WHO Regions								
African Region	42.3 [38.6-46.2]	32.5 [29.8-35.3]	6.4 [5.2-7.8]	1.6 [1.2-2.2]		4.6 [3.8-5.5]	3.1 [2.4-3.9]	
Region of the Americas	11.1 [5.7-20.5]	6.3 [3.8-10.3]	0.8 [0.5-1.4]	0.1 [0.0-0.4]		6.7 [6.1-7.5]	7.3 [6.1-8.7]	
South-East Asia Region	49.6 [45.8-53.3]	31.0 [26.9-35.4]	14.7 [11.3-18.9]	4.6 [3.3-6.2]		2.4 [1.4-4.1]	3.0 [1.3-6.5]	
Eastern Mediterranean Region	34.1 [25.1-44.5]	24.2 [15.6-35.5]	7.5 [5.9-9.4]	3.0 [2.2-4.0]		6.0 [4.3-8.4]	5.7 [3.5-9.3]	
Europe Region	-	-	-	-		-	-	
Western Pacific Region	20.8 [16.9-25.2]	6.2 [3.4-11.1]	2.1 [1.4-3.2]	0.5 [0.3-0.8]		5.6 [4.1-7.6]	6.2 [5.4-7.1]	
World Bank Income								
Low income	47.4 [43.6-51.2]	34.1 [31.6-36.7]	6.6 [5.3-8.2]	1.6 [1.2-2.0]		3.6 [2.6-4.9]	2.7 [2.1-3.5]	
Middle Income	35.2 [31.9-38.6]	21.1 [18.6-23.7]	7.5 [4.7-10.4]	2.3 [1.4-3.2]		5.3 [4.5-6.2]	6.2 [5.1-7.4]	
<i>Lower-middle income</i>	45.6 [40.4-51.0]	30.1 [26.4-34.0]	10.9 [7.1-16.3]	3.4 [2.3-5.2]		4.3 [3.3-5.6]	4.7 [3.5-6.4]	
<i>Upper-middle income</i>	18.9 [16.8-21.1]	6.0 [4.0-8.8]	1.8 [1.5-2.2]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]		6.9 [5.6-8.3]	8.8 [7.2-10.8]	
High income	3.4 [2.2-5.1]	2.8 [2.1-3.8]	0.5 [0.3-1.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]		5.4 [3.8-7.6]	7.6 [4.7-12.0]	
World Bank Regions								
East Asia and Pacific	24.2 [19.1-29.3]	11.0 [6.9-15.1]	3.7 [2.2-5.2]	1.4 [0.3-2.5]		5.0 [4.1-6.0]	6.8 [4.1-9.5]	
Europe and Central Asia	-	-	-	-		-	-	
Latin America and Caribbean	16.8 [13.3-20.2]	9.0 [6.1-11.8]	1.3 [0.8-1.7]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]		6.6 [5.5-7.7]	7.5 [6.7-8.4]	
Middle East and North Africa	22.8 [17.4-29.3]	14.3 [9.0-21.9]	6.8 [4.1-10.8]	2.7 [1.4-5.1]		8.9 [6.6-12.1]	11.0 [6.6-17.8]	
North America⁴	3.0	2.6	0.4	0.0		6.7 [6.4-6.9]	8.9 [8.6-9.2]	
South Asia	51.3 [49.6-53.0]	33.2 [31.2-35.3]	14.8 [11.3-19.2]	4.5 [3.3-6.2]		2.4 [1.4-4.1]	2.5 [1.5-4.2]	
Sub-Saharan Africa	42.9 [39.6-46.3]	33.0 [30.7-35.3]	6.8 [5.6-8.2]	1.7 [1.3-2.3]		4.4 [3.7-5.3]	3.0 [2.4-3.7]	

Footnotes

1. Only estimates for Less Developed Regions are displayed; the More Developed Region estimates are not displayed due to insufficient population coverage.
2. Asia excluding Japan; Eastern Asia excluding Japan.
3. Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand.
4. The Northern America estimates are derived applying mixed-effect models with sub-regions as fixed effects; for stunting, wasting and severe wasting, data were available only for the United States, preventing the estimation of standard errors (and confidence intervals). The Australia and New Zealand estimates are based only on Australian data applying linear regression; for stunting, only two data points were available, and thus estimation of standard errors (and confidence intervals) was not possible. Further details on the methodology are described in de Onis M. et al. Estimates of global prevalence of childhood underweight in 1990 and 2015. JAMA vol. 291, 2004:2600-6. Model selection is based on best fit.
5. Consecutive low population coverage; interpret with caution.
6. Eastern Europe and Central Asia excluding Russia.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL
NUMBER (MILLIONS) AFFECTED TABLE*

	Stunting		Wasting and Severe Wasting				Overweight	
	2000	2019	2019	2019	2000	2019		
	number (millions) stunted (moderate and severe)	number (millions) stunted (moderate and severe)	number (millions) wasted (moderate and severe)	number (millions) wasted (severe)	number (millions) overweight (moderate and severe)	number (millions) overweight (moderate and severe)		
Global	199.5 [190.0-209.0]	144.0 [133.6-154.5]	47.0 [38.7-55.3]	14.3 [11.1-17.5]	30.3 [26.8-33.8]	38.3 [32.9-43.6]		
United Nations Regions								
Less Developed Regions¹	196.3 [187.0-205.5]	140.9 [130.6-151.2]	46.2 [37.9-54.4]	14.2 [11.1-17.4]	24.8 [22.0-27.6]	30.6 [26.2-35.0]		
<i>Africa</i>	49.7 [46.7-52.8]	57.5 [53.0-62.0]	12.7 [10.7-14.8]	3.5 [2.8-4.2]	6.5 [5.3-7.8]	9.3 [6.9-11.8]		
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	21.1 [19.0-23.3]	23.1 [20.6-25.8]	3.6 [2.6-4.9]	0.7 [0.5-1.0]	2.2 [1.7-2.8]	2.5 [2.0-3.1]		
<i>Middle Africa</i>	7.0 [6.0-8.0]	9.5 [8.0-11.2]	2.0 [1.5-2.6]	0.7 [0.5-0.9]	0.8 [0.5-1.1]	1.5 [1.0-2.3]		
<i>Northern Africa</i>	5.0 [3.8-6.6]	5.1 [3.4-7.5]	2.1 [1.1-4.0]	0.9 [0.5-1.8]	1.8 [1.0-3.0]	3.3 [1.6-6.3]		
<i>Southern Africa</i>	1.9 [1.7-2.1]	2.0 [1.7-2.2]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.6 [0.4-0.8]	0.9 [0.6-1.2]		
<i>Western Africa</i>	14.8 [13.6-16.0]	17.8 [15.3-20.6]	4.8 [4.2-5.5]	1.1 [0.9-1.4]	1.2 [0.9-1.6]	1.2 [0.9-1.6]		
<i>Asia²</i>	136.6 [128.0-145.1]	78.2 [69.1-87.3]	32.6 [24.6-40.6]	10.5 [7.5-13.6]	14.4 [12.0-16.9]	17.2 [13.5-20.9]		
<i>Central Asia</i>	1.7 [1.3-2.1]	0.8 [0.6-1.0]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.6 [0.3-0.9]	0.5 [0.3-0.9]		
<i>Eastern Asia²</i>	18.4 [17.1-19.7]	4.1 [3.7-4.5]	1.5 [1.5-1.6]	0.4 [0.3-0.4]	6.1 [5.5-6.8]	5.7 [5.0-6.5]		
<i>Southern Asia</i>	90.2 [82.6-97.7]	55.9 [48.2-64.2]	25.2 [18.4-34.2]	7.8 [5.5-11.0]	4.4 [2.7-7.3]	4.5 [2.6-7.7]		
<i>South-eastern Asia</i>	21.0 [17.9-24.4]	13.9 [10.5-18.0]	4.7 [3.3-6.4]	2.0 [0.9-4.3]	1.7 [1.4-2.2]	4.2 [2.5-7.1]		
<i>Western Asia</i>	5.3 [3.7-7.4]	3.4 [1.7-6.5]	1.0 [0.4-2.4]	0.3 [0.1-0.8]	1.6 [1.1-2.1]	2.3 [1.2-4.1]		
<i>Latin American and Caribbean</i>	9.5 [7.6-11.5]	4.7 [3.2-6.2]	0.7 [0.4-0.9]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	3.8 [3.1-4.4]	3.9 [3.5-4.3]		
<i>Caribbean</i>	0.6 [0.3-1.1]	0.3 [0.1-0.6]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.2 [0.2-0.2]	0.2 [0.1-0.5]		
<i>Central America</i>	3.9 [2.8-5.4]	2.0 [1.3-3.1]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	1.0 [0.8-1.2]	1.1 [0.9-1.3]		
<i>South America</i>	5.0 [3.8-6.5]	2.4 [1.4-3.9]	0.4 [0.2-0.7]	0.1 [0.0-0.2]	2.6 [2.1-3.2]	2.6 [2.2-2.9]		
<i>Oceania³</i>	0.5 [0.2-0.7]	0.6 [0.3-0.9]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]		
More Developed Regions	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Australia and New Zealand⁴</i>	0.0	-	-	-	0.1 [0.0-0.3]	0.4 [0.1-0.7]		
<i>Europe</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Northern America⁴</i>	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0	1.4 [1.4-1.5]	1.9 [1.9-2.0]		
UNICEF Regions								
<i>East Asia and Pacific</i>	38.1 [30.1-46.1]	16.9 [10.6-23.2]	5.7 [3.4-8.0]	2.1 [0.5-3.8]	7.9 [6.5-9.4]	10.4 [6.3-14.6]		
<i>Europe and Central Asia⁶</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</i>	3.9 [3.2-4.8]	1.6 [1.4-2.0]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	1.6 [1.1-2.3]	2.3 [1.6-3.2]		
<i>Western Europe</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Latin America and Caribbean</i>	9.5 [7.6-11.5]	4.7 [3.2-6.2]	0.7 [0.4-0.9]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	3.8 [3.1-4.4]	3.9 [3.5-4.3]		
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	8.5 [6.5-10.9]	7.1 [4.4-10.8]	3.3 [2.0-5.4]	1.3 [0.7-2.5]	3.3 [2.4-4.5]	5.4 [3.2-8.8]		
<i>North America⁴</i>	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0	1.4 [1.4-1.5]	1.9 [1.9-2.0]		
<i>South Asia</i>	90.1 [87.1-93.1]	56.1 [52.7-59.6]	25.1 [19.1-32.5]	7.7 [5.6-10.5]	4.2 [2.5-7.1]	4.2 [2.5-7.1]		
<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	49.5 [45.6-53.4]	57.0 [53.2-60.8]	12.1 [10.4-13.8]	3.1 [2.6-3.7]	5.1 [4.1-6.1]	5.4 [4.2-6.6]		
<i>East and Southern Africa</i>	27.1 [23.7-30.6]	28.0 [26.1-29.9]	4.8 [3.5-6.6]	1.1 [0.8-1.5]	2.8 [2.1-3.7]	3.1 [2.2-4.4]		
<i>West and Central Africa</i>	22.4 [20.6-24.2]	29.0 [25.8-32.4]	7.3 [6.6-8.1]	2.0 [1.7-2.5]	2.3 [1.8-3.0]	2.3 [1.8-2.9]		
WHO Regions								
<i>African Region</i>	47.2 [43.0-51.4]	55.3 [50.7-60.1]	10.9 [8.9-13.3]	2.8 [2.1-3.7]	5.1 [4.2-6.1]	5.3 [4.1-6.7]		
<i>Region of the Americas</i>	8.6 [4.4-15.9]	4.6 [2.8-7.6]	0.6 [0.4-1.0]	0.1 [0.0-0.3]	5.2 [4.7-5.8]	5.3 [4.5-6.4]		
<i>South-East Asia Region</i>	90.6 [83.8-97.4]	52.6 [45.6-60.1]	24.9 [19.1-32.1]	7.7 [5.7-10.5]	4.4 [2.5-7.5]	5.0 [2.3-11.0]		
<i>Eastern Mediterranean Region</i>	22.4 [16.5-29.2]	20.6 [13.3-30.3]	6.4 [5.0-8.0]	2.6 [1.9-3.5]	4.0 [2.8-5.5]	4.9 [3.0-7.9]		
<i>Europe Region</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Western Pacific Region</i>	25.9 [21.1-31.4]	7.5 [4.1-13.3]	2.6 [1.7-3.9]	0.6 [0.4-1.0]	7.0 [5.1-9.5]	7.4 [6.5-8.5]		
World Bank Income								
<i>Low income</i>	38.0 [35.0-41.0]	39.7 [36.8-42.8]	7.7 [6.2-9.6]	1.8 [1.4-2.4]	2.9 [2.1-3.9]	3.2 [2.4-4.1]		
<i>Middle Income</i>	164.2 [148.5-180.0]	104.1 [91.7-116.5]	37.1 [23.2-51.1]	11.4 [7.0-15.9]	24.7 [20.8-28.7]	30.8 [25.2-36.4]		
<i>Lower-middle income</i>	130.1 [115.0-145.4]	93.2 [82.0-105.2]	33.8 [22.1-50.5]	10.6 [7.0-16.1]	12.3 [9.5-15.9]	14.6 [10.7-20.0]		
<i>Upper middle income</i>	34.2 [30.4-38.3]	11.0 [7.4-16.1]	3.3 [2.8-4.0]	0.8 [0.6-1.0]	12.4 [10.2-15.0]	16.1 [13.2-19.7]		
<i>High income</i>	2.3 [1.5-3.6]	1.9 [1.4-2.6]	0.4 [0.2-0.7]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	3.7 [2.6-5.2]	5.2 [3.2-8.2]		
World Bank Regions								
<i>East Asia and Pacific</i>	38.2 [30.2-46.2]	17.0 [10.6-23.3]	5.7 [3.4-8.0]	2.2 [0.5-3.8]	8.0 [6.5-9.5]	10.4 [6.3-14.6]		
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Latin America and Caribbean</i>	9.5 [7.6-11.5]	4.7 [3.2-6.2]	0.7 [0.4-0.9]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	3.8 [3.1-4.4]	3.9 [3.5-4.3]		
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	8.5 [6.5-11.0]	7.1 [4.5-10.9]	3.3 [2.1-5.4]	1.3 [0.7-2.5]	3.3 [2.5-4.5]	5.4 [3.3-8.8]		
<i>North America⁴</i>	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0	1.4 [1.4-1.5]	1.9 [1.9-2.0]		
<i>South Asia</i>	90.1 [87.1-93.1]	56.1 [52.7-59.6]	25.1 [19.1-32.5]	7.7 [5.6-10.5]	4.2 [2.5-7.1]	4.2 [2.5-7.1]		
<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	49.2 [45.4-53.1]	57.5 [53.6-61.5]	11.8 [9.8-14.2]	3.0 [2.3-4.0]	5.1 [4.2-6.1]	5.2 [4.2-6.5]		

*Complete data series for stunting and overweight (1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019) and the latest year for wasting (2019) estimates of prevalence and numbers affected can be found at the websites below for global as well as for the following groupings: (i) United Nations regions and sub-regions; (ii) UNICEF regions; (iii) WHO regions; (iv) World Bank country income classifications; (v) World Bank regions; (vi) SDG regions; and (vii) FAO's low income food deficient countries classification. These websites also contain a file with the country compositions for each grouping:

UNICEF <<https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>> WHO <www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates> World Bank Group <data.worldbank.org/child-malnutrition>

COUNTRY PREVALENCE TABLE*

Country Name	Stunting				Wasting				Overweight			
	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment
Afghanistan	2018	38.2	Very High	●	2018	5.1	Medium	●	2018	4.1	Low	●
Albania	2017	11.3	Medium	●	2017	1.6	Very Low	●	2017	16.4	Very High	●
Algeria	2012	11.7	Medium	●	2012	4.1	Low	●	2012	12.4	High	●
Andorra	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Angola	2015	37.6	Very High	●	2015	4.9	Low	●	2015	3.4	Low	●
Anguilla	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Argentina	2019	7.9	Low	●	2019	1.6	Very Low	●	2019	10.0	High	●
Armenia	2016	9.4	Low	●	2016	4.4	Low	●	2016	13.7	High	●
Australia	2007	2.0	Very Low	●	2007	0.0	Very Low	●	2017	22.0	Very High	●
Austria	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Azerbaijan	2013	17.8	Medium	●	2013	3.2	Low	●	2013	14.1	High	●
Bahamas	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Bahrain	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●
Bangladesh	2018	30.8	Very High	●	2018	8.4	Medium	●	2018	2.2	Very Low	●
Barbados	2012	7.7	Low	●	2012	6.8	Medium	●	2012	12.2	High	●
Belarus	2005	4.5	Low	●	2005	2.2	Very Low	●	2005	9.7	Medium	●
Belgium	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Belize	2015	15.0	Medium	●	2015	1.8	Very Low	●	2015	7.3	Medium	●
Benin	2018	32.2	Very High	●	2018	5.0	Medium	●	2018	1.9	Very Low	●
Bhutan	2010	33.5	Very High	●	2010	5.9	Medium	●	2010	7.6	Medium	●
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2016	16.1	Medium	●	2016	2.0	Very Low	●	2016	10.1	High	●
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012	8.9	Low	●	2012	2.3	Very Low	●	2012	17.4	Very High	●
Botswana	2007	28.9	High	●	2007	7.3	Medium	●	2007	10.0	High	●
Brazil	2007	7.0	Low	●	2007	1.8	Very Low	●	2007	6.4	Medium	●
British Virgin Islands	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Brunei Darussalam	2009	19.7	Medium	●	2009	2.9	Low	●	2009	8.3	Medium	●
Bulgaria	2014	7.0	Low	●	2014	6.3	Medium	●	2014	6.9	Medium	●
Burkina Faso	2018	24.9	High	●	2018	8.4	Medium	●	2018	1.0	Very Low	●
Burundi	2019	54.2	Very High	●	2019	5.1	Medium	●	2016	1.4	Very Low	●
Cabo Verde	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Cambodia	2014	32.4	Very High	●	2014	9.7	Medium	●	2014	2.2	Very Low	●
Cameroon	2018	28.9	High	●	2018	4.3	Low	●	2018	11.0	High	●
Canada	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	2004	10.4	High	●
Central African Republic	2018	40.8	Very High	●	2018	6.6	Medium	●	2012	2.0	Very Low	●
Chad	2015	39.8	Very High	●	2015	13.3	High	●	2015	2.8	Low	●
Chile	2014	1.8	Very Low	●	2014	0.3	Very Low	●	2014	9.3	Medium	●
China	2013	8.1	Low	●	2013	1.9	Very Low	●	2013	9.1	Medium	●

PROGRESS ASSESSMENT LABEL	Stunting (Target: reduce the number of stunted children under-five years of age by 40%)	Wasting (Target: reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%)	Overweight (Target: no increase in childhood overweight)
On Track ●	AARR ≥ required AARR or prevalence <5%	Prevalence <5%	AARR ≥1.5 or prevalence <3%
Off Track (some progress) ●	AARR < required, but AARR ≥0.5	Prevalence ≥5% but AARR ≥2.0	NA
Off Track (no progress or worsening) ●	AARR < required, but AARR <0.5	Prevalence ≥5% but AARR <2.0	AARR <1.5
Assessment not possible ●	Data availability criteria not met	Data availability criteria not met	Data availability criteria not met

Notes on Progress Assessment: The progress assessment is done against the Sustainable Development Goal Target 2.2 for 2025 using an adapted version of rules from the WHO-UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring¹ and all available country data between 2008 and 2019 in the 2020 JME country dataset. The annual average rate of reduction (AARR) is calculated for each indicator requiring at least 2 data points, one of which must be more recent than 2012. Alternatively, countries are recorded as being on track if their most recent data point after 2012 is below the on track threshold (e.g. 5% for stunting) even if they have <2 data points in total. Countries not meeting these data availability criteria are reported as "Assessment not possible".

*The most recent estimate between 2000 and 2019 in the JME country dataset is reported in this table, see page 19 for link to full country time series. **See page 19 for prevalence thresholds; No current data means the most recent estimate is from before 2000.

¹ Methodology for monitoring progress towards the global nutrition targets for 2025 – technical report. World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Technical Expert Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring (TEAM), 2017. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Country Name	Stunting				Wasting				Overweight			
	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment
Colombia	2016	12.7	Medium	🟡	2016	1.6	Very Low	🟢	2016	5.7	Medium	🟡
Comoros	2012	31.1	Very High	🟠	2012	11.2	High	🟠	2012	10.6	High	🟠
Congo	2014	21.2	High	🟡	2014	8.2	Medium	🟡	2014	5.9	Medium	🟡
Cook Islands	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Costa Rica	2008	5.6	Low	🟠	2008	1.0	Very Low	🟠	2008	8.1	Medium	🟠
Côte d'Ivoire	2016	21.6	High	🟢	2016	6.1	Medium	🟡	2016	1.5	Very Low	🟢
Croatia	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Cuba	2000	7.0	Low	🟠	2000	2.4	Very Low	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Cyprus	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Czechia	2001	2.7	Low	🟠	2001	4.6	Low	🟠	2001	4.4	Low	🟠
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2017	19.1	Medium	🟢	2017	2.5	Low	🟢	2017	2.3	Very Low	🟢
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2013	42.7	Very High	🟡	2013	8.1	Medium	🟡	2013	4.4	Low	🟢
Denmark	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Djibouti	2012	33.5	Very High	🟠	2012	21.5	Very High	🟠	2012	8.1	Medium	🟠
Dominica	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Dominican Republic	2013	7.1	Low	🟠	2013	2.4	Very Low	🟢	2013	7.6	Medium	🟠
Ecuador	2014	23.9	High	🟡	2014	1.6	Very Low	🟢	2014	8.0	Medium	🟡
Egypt	2014	22.3	High	🟡	2014	9.5	Medium	🟡	2014	15.7	Very High	🟢
El Salvador	2014	13.6	Medium	🟢	2014	2.1	Very Low	🟢	2014	6.4	Medium	🟡
Equatorial Guinea	2011	26.2	High	🟠	2011	3.1	Low	🟠	2011	9.7	Medium	🟠
Eritrea	2010	52.5	Very High	🟠	2010	14.6	High	🟠	2010	2.1	Very Low	🟠
Estonia	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Eswatini	2014	25.5	High	🟢	2014	2.0	Very Low	🟢	2014	9.0	Medium	🟢
Ethiopia	2019	36.8	Very High	🟡	2019	7.2	Medium	🟡	2019	2.1	Very Low	🟢
Fiji	2004	7.5	Low	🟠	2004	6.3	Medium	🟠	2004	5.1	Medium	🟠
Finland	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
France	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Gabon	2012	17.0	Medium	🟠	2012	3.4	Low	🟠	2012	7.7	Medium	🟠
Gambia	2018	13.6	Medium	🟡	2018	6.0	Medium	🟡	2018	2.5	Low	🟢
Georgia	2009	11.3	Medium	🟠	2009	1.6	Very Low	🟠	2009	19.9	Very High	🟠
Germany	2016	1.7	Very Low	🟢	2016	0.3	Very Low	🟠	2016	3.2	Low	🟠
Ghana	2017	17.5	Medium	🟢	2017	6.8	Medium	🟡	2017	1.4	Very Low	🟢
Greece	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Grenada	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Guatemala	2015	46.7	Very High	🟡	2015	0.8	Very Low	🟢	2015	4.9	Low	🟢
Guinea	2018	30.3	Very High	🟡	2018	9.2	Medium	🟡	2018	5.6	Medium	🟡
Guinea-Bissau	2014	27.6	High	🟡	2014	6.0	Medium	🟡	2014	2.3	Very Low	🟢
Guyana	2014	11.3	Medium	🟢	2014	6.4	Medium	🟡	2014	5.3	Medium	🟢
Haiti	2017	21.9	High	🟡	2017	3.7	Low	🟢	2017	3.4	Low	🟢
Holy See	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Honduras	2012	22.6	High	🟠	2012	1.4	Very Low	🟠	2012	5.2	Medium	🟠
Hungary	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Iceland	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
India	2017	34.7	Very High	🟢	2017	17.3	Very High	🟡	2017	1.6	Very Low	🟢
Indonesia	2018	30.5	Very High	🟡	2018	10.2	High	🟡	2018	8.0	Medium	🟢
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2010	6.8	Low	🟠	2010	4.0	Low	🟠	-	-	No Current Data	🟠
Iraq	2018	12.6	Medium	🟢	2018	3.0	Low	🟢	2018	6.1	Medium	🟢
Ireland	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Israel	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Italy	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠	-	-	No Data	🟠
Jamaica	2014	6.0	Low	🟡	2014	3.6	Low	🟢	2014	8.3	Medium	🟡
Japan	2010	7.1	Low	🟠	2010	2.3	Very Low	🟠	2010	1.5	Very Low	🟠
Jordan	2012	7.8	Low	🟡	2012	2.4	Very Low	🟠	2012	4.7	Low	🟢
Kazakhstan	2015	8.0	Low	🟢	2015	3.1	Low	🟢	2015	9.3	Medium	🟢
Kenya	2014	26.2	High	🟢	2014	4.2	Low	🟢	2014	4.1	Low	🟢

Country Name	Stunting				Wasting				Overweight			
	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment
Kiribati	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●
Kuwait	2017	6.4	Low	●	2017	2.5	Low	●	2017	5.5	Medium	●
Kyrgyzstan	2018	11.8	Medium	●	2018	2.0	Very Low	●	2018	6.9	Medium	●
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2017	33.1	Very High	●	2017	9.0	Medium	●	2017	3.5	Low	●
Latvia	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Lebanon	2004	16.5	Medium	●	2004	6.6	Medium	●	2004	16.7	Very High	●
Lesotho	2018	34.6	Very High	●	2018	2.1	Very Low	●	2018	6.6	Medium	●
Liberia	2016	30.1	Very High	●	2016	4.3	Low	●	2016	2.7	Low	●
Libya	2014	38.1	Very High	●	2014	10.2	High	●	2014	29.6	Very High	●
Liechtenstein	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Lithuania	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Luxembourg	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Madagascar	2018	41.6	Very High	●	2018	6.4	Medium	●	2018	1.4	Very Low	●
Malawi	2018	39.0	Very High	●	2018	1.3	Very Low	●	2018	2.5	Low	●
Malaysia	2016	20.7	High	●	2016	11.5	High	●	2016	6.0	Medium	●
Maldives	2009	19.0	Medium	●	2009	10.6	High	●	2009	6.2	Medium	●
Mali	2018	26.9	High	●	2018	9.0	Medium	●	2018	2.0	Very Low	●
Malta	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Marshall Islands	2017	34.8	Very High	●	2017	3.5	Low	●	2017	4.1	Low	●
Mauritania	2018	22.8	High	●	2018	11.5	High	●	2018	1.5	Very Low	●
Mauritius	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●
Mexico	2016	10.0	Medium	●	2016	2.0	Very Low	●	2016	5.3	Medium	●
Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Monaco	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Mongolia	2018	9.4	Low	●	2018	0.9	Very Low	●	2018	10.5	High	●
Montenegro	2013	9.4	Low	●	2013	2.8	Low	●	2013	22.3	Very High	●
Montserrat	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Morocco	2017	15.1	Medium	●	2017	2.6	Low	●	2017	10.9	High	●
Mozambique	2015	42.3	Very High	●	2015	4.4	Low	●	2015	7.0	Medium	●
Myanmar	2016	29.4	High	●	2016	6.6	Medium	●	2016	1.5	Very Low	●
Namibia	2013	22.7	High	●	2013	7.1	Medium	●	2013	4.0	Low	●
Nauru	2007	24.0	High	●	2007	1.0	Very Low	●	2007	2.8	Low	●
Nepal	2016	36.0	Very High	●	2016	9.6	Medium	●	2016	1.2	Very Low	●
Netherlands	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
New Zealand	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Nicaragua	2012	17.3	Medium	●	2012	2.2	Very Low	●	2012	8.3	Medium	●
Niger	2018	48.5	Very High	●	2018	14.1	High	●	2018	1.0	Very Low	●
Nigeria	2018	36.8	Very High	●	2018	6.8	Medium	●	2018	2.1	Very Low	●
Niue	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
North Macedonia	2011	4.9	Low	●	2011	1.8	Very Low	●	2011	12.4	High	●
Norway	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Oman	2017	11.4	Medium	●	2017	9.3	Medium	●	2017	4.2	Low	●
Pakistan	2018	37.6	Very High	●	2018	7.1	Medium	●	2018	2.5	Low	●
Palau	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Panama	2008	19.0	Medium	●	2008	1.2	Very Low	●	2008	9.7	Medium	●
Papua New Guinea	2010	49.5	Very High	●	2010	14.1	High	●	2010	13.7	High	●
Paraguay	2016	5.6	Low	●	2016	1.0	Very Low	●	2016	12.4	High	●
Peru	2018	12.2	Medium	●	2018	0.5	Very Low	●	2018	8.6	Medium	●
Philippines	2018	30.3	Very High	●	2018	5.6	Medium	●	2018	4.0	Low	●
Poland	2014	2.6	Low	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Portugal	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Qatar	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●	-	-	No Current Data	●
Republic of Korea	2010	2.5	Low	●	2010	1.2	Very Low	●	2010	7.3	Medium	●
Republic of Moldova	2012	6.4	Low	●	2012	1.9	Very Low	●	2012	4.9	Low	●
Romania	2002	12.8	Medium	●	2002	3.5	Low	●	2002	8.3	Medium	●

Country Name	Stunting				Wasting				Overweight			
	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment	Year	Prevalence	Prevalence Category**	Progress Assessment
Russian Federation	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Rwanda	2015	36.9	Very High	●	2015	2.0	Very Low	●	2015	5.6	Medium	●
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Saint Lucia	2012	2.5	Low	●	2012	3.7	Low	●	2012	6.3	Medium	●
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Samoa	2014	4.9	Low	●	2014	3.9	Low	●	2014	5.3	Medium	●
San Marino	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Sao Tome and Principe	2014	17.2	Medium	●	2014	4.0	Low	●	2014	2.4	Very Low	●
Saudi Arabia	2005	9.3	Low	●	2005	11.8	High	●	2005	6.1	Medium	●
Senegal	2019	18.8	Medium	●	2019	8.1	Medium	●	2019	2.6	Low	●
Serbia	2014	6.0	Low	●	2014	3.9	Low	●	2014	13.9	High	●
Seychelles	2012	7.9	Low	●	2012	4.3	Low	●	2012	10.2	High	●
Sierra Leone	2019	29.5	High	●	2019	5.4	Medium	●	2019	4.5	Low	●
Singapore	2000	4.4	Low	●	2000	3.6	Low	●	2000	2.6	Low	●
Slovakia	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Slovenia	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Solomon Islands	2015	31.7	Very High	●	2015	8.5	Medium	●	2015	4.5	Low	●
Somalia	2009	25.3	High	●	2009	14.3	High	●	2009	3.0	Low	●
South Africa	2016	27.4	High	●	2016	2.5	Low	●	2016	13.3	High	●
South Sudan	2010	31.3	Very High	●	2010	22.7	Very High	●	2010	6.0	Medium	●
Spain	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Sri Lanka	2016	17.3	Medium	●	2016	15.1	Very High	●	2016	2.0	Very Low	●
State of Palestine	2014	7.4	Low	●	2014	1.2	Very Low	●	2014	8.2	Medium	●
Sudan	2014	38.2	Very High	●	2014	16.3	Very High	●	2014	3.0	Low	●
Suriname	2010	8.8	Low	●	2010	5.0	Medium	●	2010	4.0	Low	●
Sweden	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Switzerland	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Syrian Arab Republic	2010	27.9	High	●	2010	11.5	High	●	2010	17.9	Very High	●
Tajikistan	2017	17.5	Medium	●	2017	5.6	Medium	●	2017	3.3	Low	●
Thailand	2016	10.5	Medium	●	2016	5.4	Medium	●	2016	8.2	Medium	●
Timor-Leste	2013	51.7	Very High	●	2013	9.9	Medium	●	2013	1.6	Very Low	●
Togo	2017	23.8	High	●	2017	5.0	Medium	●	2017	1.5	Very Low	●
Tokelau	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Tonga	2012	8.1	Low	●	2012	5.2	Medium	●	2012	17.3	Very High	●
Trinidad and Tobago	2011	9.2	Low	●	2011	6.4	Medium	●	2011	11.4	High	●
Tunisia	2018	8.4	Low	●	2018	2.1	Very Low	●	2018	17.2	Very High	●
Turkey	2018	6.0	Low	●	2018	1.7	Very Low	●	2018	8.1	Medium	●
Turkmenistan	2015	11.5	Medium	●	2015	4.2	Low	●	2015	5.9	Medium	●
Turks and Caicos Islands	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
Tuvalu	2007	10.0	Medium	●	2007	3.3	Low	●	2007	6.3	Medium	●
Uganda	2016	28.9	High	●	2016	3.5	Low	●	2016	3.7	Low	●
Ukraine	2000	22.9	High	●	2000	8.2	Medium	●	2000	26.5	Very High	●
United Arab Emirates	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
United Kingdom	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●	-	-	No Data	●
United Republic of Tanzania	2018	31.8	Very High	●	2018	3.5	Low	●	2018	2.8	Low	●
United States	2016	3.5	Low	●	2016	0.4	Very Low	●	2016	9.4	Medium	●
Uruguay	2011	10.7	Medium	●	2011	1.3	Very Low	●	2011	7.2	Medium	●
Uzbekistan	2017	10.8	Medium	●	2017	1.8	Very Low	●	2017	4.6	Low	●
Vanuatu	2013	28.9	High	●	2013	4.7	Low	●	2013	4.9	Low	●
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2009	13.4	Medium	●	2009	4.1	Low	●	2009	6.4	Medium	●
Viet Nam	2017	23.8	High	●	2017	5.8	Medium	●	2017	5.9	Medium	●
Yemen	2013	46.4	Very High	●	2013	16.4	Very High	●	2013	2.5	Low	●
Zambia	2018	34.6	Very High	●	2018	4.2	Low	●	2018	5.2	Medium	●
Zimbabwe	2019	23.5	High	●	2019	2.9	Low	●	2019	2.5	Low	●

NOTES ON THE DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Strengths and weaknesses of malnutrition data

Prevalence estimates for stunting and overweight are relatively stable over the course of a calendar year. It is therefore possible to track global and regional changes in these two conditions over time.

Wasting and severe wasting are acute conditions that can change frequently and rapidly over the course of a calendar year. This makes it difficult to generate reliable trends over time with the input data available, and as such, this report provides only most recent global and regional estimates.

The joint global and regional estimates that make up the UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates have been generated using a country-level dataset which is mainly comprised of estimates from nationally representative household surveys. These data are collected infrequently (every 3 to 5 years in most countries) and measure malnutrition at one point in time (e.g. during one or several months of field work), making it difficult to capture the rapid fluctuations in wasting that can occur over the course of a given year. Incidence data (i.e. the number of new cases that occur during the calendar year) would allow for better tracking of changes over time; however, these data currently do not exist.

The analysis methods and presentation have remained unchanged from the 2012 report¹, except for minor refinements detailed below:

1. Year assigned to each survey

When data collection begins in one calendar year and continues into the next, the survey year assigned is the one in which most of the fieldwork took place. For example, if a survey was conducted between 1 September 2009 and 28 February 2010, the year 2009 would be assigned, since the majority of data collection took place in that year (i.e., four months in 2009 versus two months in 2010). This method has been used since the 2013 edition (prior to that, the latter year was used by default – e.g., 2010 in the example above).

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization, The World Bank. UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates. (UNICEF, New York; WHO, Geneva; The World Bank, Washington, DC; 2012).

2. Final reports only

As of the 2014 edition, the country-level dataset used to generate the global and regional joint malnutrition estimates is based only on final survey results. Preliminary survey results are no longer included in the dataset since the data are sometimes retracted or change significantly when the final version is released.

3. Updated data sources

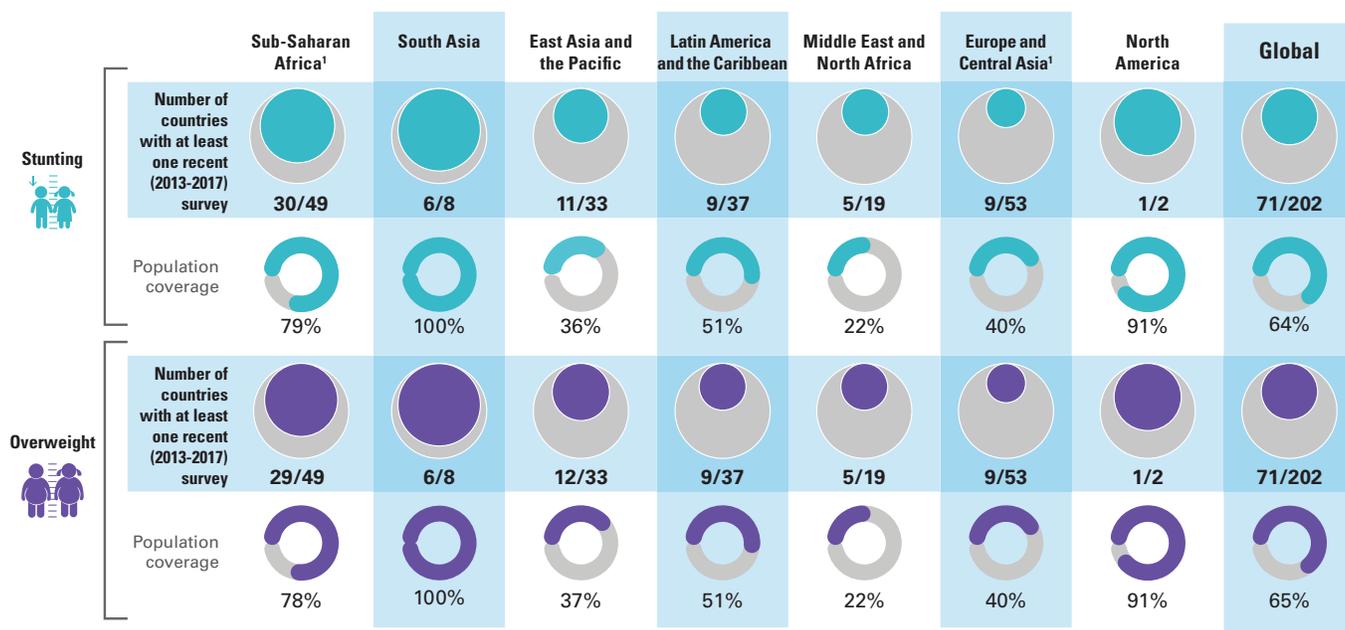
- i. The updated joint dataset includes:
 - 924 nationally representative surveys;
 - data from 152 countries and territories, representing more than 90 per cent of all children under 5 globally (population coverage varies by regions and periods). The majority of data available are from low- and middle-income countries – more efforts are needed to generate data from high-income countries.
- ii. The under 5 population estimates were based on The United Nations World Population Prospects, 2019 Revision. These were used as weighting factors for each country survey to derive the regional and global prevalence estimates and calculate the numbers affected.
- iii. Regional and country income classifications were based on FY2020 World Bank income classification.

4. Footnotes on population coverage

As started in the 2014 edition, a separate exercise was conducted to assess population coverage. This was important in order to alert the reader, via footnotes, to instances where the data should be interpreted with caution due to low population coverage (defined as less than 50 per cent). A conservative method was applied looking at available data within five-year periods around the projected years. Population coverage was calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{the sum of country five-year average populations for which surveys are available in the dataset}}{\text{the total of country five-year average population for all countries in the region}}$$

Population coverage for the most recent period (2015–2019), by UNICEF regions



Note: 1. Corresponding sub-regional values: Eastern and Southern Africa-13/25 countries, 77% population coverage for both stunting and overweight; West and Central Africa-17/24 countries, 81% population coverage for stunting and 16/24 countries, 80% population coverage for overweight; Eastern Europe and Central Asia-8/20 countries, 69% population coverage for both stunting and overweight; Western Europe-1/33 countries, 14% population coverage for both stunting and overweight. Also note that figures for wasting are the same as for stunting and therefore not presented.

5. Prevalence thresholds for wasting, overweight and stunting in children under 5 years

New thresholds, presented in Table 1, were established through the WHO-UNICEF Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring (TEAM)² and released in 2018. These new thresholds have been used for development of prevalence-based maps in this brochure. The thresholds were developed in relation to standard deviations (SD) of the normative WHO Child Growth Standards. The international definition of 'normal' (two SD from the WHO standards median) defines the first threshold, which includes 2.3% of the area under the normalized distribution. Multipliers of this "very low" level (rounded to 2.5%) set the basis to establish subsequent thresholds.

Table 1. Prevalence thresholds and corresponding labels for stunting, overweight and wasting

Labels	Prevalence thresholds (%)	
	Stunting	Overweight and Wasting
Very low	< 2.5	< 2.5
Low	2.5 – < 10	2.5 – < 5
Medium	10 – < 20	5 – < 10
High	20 – < 30	10 – < 15
Very high	≥ 30	≥ 15

2 de Onis, M., et al. (2018). Prevalence thresholds for wasting, overweight and stunting in children under 5 years. *Public health nutrition*, 22(1), 175–179.

ONLINE MATERIALS

This key findings report of the 2020 edition of the Joint Malnutrition Estimates summarizes the new regional and global numbers and main messages for official United Nations data on child malnutrition. Additional information is available and the following materials can be downloaded from the links on the bottom right:

- the latest country-level joint malnutrition dataset, a time series of all country estimates that were used to generate the joint child malnutrition global and regional estimates;
- the joint malnutrition global and regional estimates database by various regional groupings (e.g. United Nations, UNICEF, WHO, etc., regional groupings) and for more years than presented in this brochure;
- a reference document outlining the composition of the various regional groupings for which the joint estimates have been produced.
- interactive dashboards, which allow users to visualize and export the global and regional estimates for a number of regional groupings.

UNICEF: <<https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme>>

WHO: <www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates>

World Bank Group: <data.worldbank.org/child-malnutrition>

INTERACTIVE DASHBOARD OVERVIEW

Tabs where you can select different visualizations for global and regional data

Options

- Select your regional grouping (UNICEF, WHO, United Nations, World Bank Income)
- Select regions to view
- Select years to view
- Hover over data points for detailed information
- With these links you can view the dashboard on the UNICEF, WHO or World Bank Group websites
- Download the graphics and data here

Acknowledgements

This publication was prepared by: the Data, Analytics and Innovation Section of the Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring, UNICEF New York together with the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO Geneva and the Development Data Group of the World Bank, Washington DC. March 2020.

Organizations and individuals involved in generating this publication:

UNICEF: Chika Hayashi, Julia Krasevec, Richard Kumapley, Juan Manuel Puyana, Vrinda Mehra

WHO: Elaine Borghi, Elisa Dominguez, Jose Luis Alvarez Moran, Mercedes de Onis

World Bank Group: Espen Beer Prydz, Umar Serajuddin, Emi Suzuki

Design: Nona Reuter (UNICEF); **Writing and editing:** Julia D'Aloisio (UNICEF)

Special thanks go to Victor Aguayo (UNICEF), Francesco Branca (WHO) and Mark Hereward (UNICEF)

© United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2020. Some rights reserved.

Suggested citation: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank. *Levels and trends in child malnutrition: Key Findings of the 2020 Edition of the Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates – UNICEF regions. 2020.*

Note on maps: These maps are stylized and not to scale and do not reflect a position by UNICEF, WHO or World Bank Group on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of Abyei area has not yet been determined.

<data.unicef.org/nutrition>; <www.who.int/nutgrowthdb>; <data.worldbank.org>.



Email: data@unicef.org



Email: nutrition@who.int



Email: data@worldbank.org