

# TABLE 2. NUTRITION

Countries and territories	% of infants with low birthweight 2003–2008*	Early initiation of breastfeeding (%) 2003–2008*	% of children (2003–2008*) who are:			% of under-fives (2003–2008*) suffering from:					Vitamin A supplementation coverage rate (6–59 months) 2008	% of households consuming iodized salt 2003–2008*
			exclusively breastfed (<6 months)	breastfed with complementary food (6–9 months)	still breastfeeding (20–23 months)	underweight (NCHS/WHO)		wasting (WHO)	stunting (WHO)	Full coverage <sup>a</sup> (%)		
						moderate & severe	underweight (WHO)					
Afghanistan	–	–	–	29	54	39y	33y	12y	9y	59y	96	28y
Albania	7	38	40	69	22	8	6	2	7	26	–	60
Algeria	6	50	7	39	22	4	3	1	4	15	–	61
Andorra	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Angola	12x	55	11x	77x	37x	–	16y	7y	8y	29y	82	45
Antigua and Barbuda	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Argentina	7	–	–	–	28	4y	2y	0y	1y	8y	–	90x
Armenia	7	28	33	57	15	4	4	1	5	18	–	97
Australia	7x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Austria	7x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Azerbaijan	10	32	12	44	16	10	8	2	7	25	90w	54
Bahamas	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bahrain	8x	–	34x	65x	41x	9x	–	2z	5z	10z	–	–
Bangladesh	22	43	43	74	91	46	41	12	17	43	97	84y
Barbados	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Belarus	4	21	9	38	4	1	1	1	2	4	–	55y
Belgium	8x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Belize	7	51	10	–	27	6	4	1	2	22	–	90x
Benin	15	54	43	72	57	23	18	5	8	43	52	55
Bhutan	15x	–	–	–	–	19x	14x	3x	3x	48x	–	96x
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	7	61	60	81	40	6	–	1z	1z	22z	45	88y
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	57	18	29	10	2	1	0	4	10	–	62y
Botswana	10x	–	34x	57x	11x	13x	11x	4x	6x	29x	–	66x
Brazil	8	43	40	70	25y	–	2	–	2	7	–	96y
Brunei Darussalam	10x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bulgaria	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	100
Burkina Faso	16	20	7	50	85	32	–	–	19z	36z	100	34
Burundi	11	–	45	88	–	39	35	14z	7z	53z	80	98y
Cambodia	14	35	60	82	54	36	28	7	9	42	88	73y
Cameroon	11	20	21	64	21	19	16	5	7	36	–	49y
Canada	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cape Verde	6	73	60	80	13	9y	–	2z	7z	12z	–	0x
Central African Republic	13	39	23	55	47	29	24	8	12	43	68	62
Chad	22	34	2	77	65	37	–	14z	14z	41z	0	56
Chile	6	–	–	–	–	1y	–	–	0z	1z	–	100x
China	4	–	–	32	15	7	6	–	–	15	–	95y
Colombia	6	49	47	65	32	7y	5y	2y	2y	15y	–	92x
Comoros	25x	25x	21x	34x	45x	25	–	–	8z	44z	20	82x
Congo	13	39	19	78	21	14	11	3	8	30	10	82
Cook Islands	3x	–	19x	–	–	10x	–	–	–	–	–	–
Costa Rica	7	–	15	–	49	5x	–	0z	2z	6z	–	92x
Côte d'Ivoire	17	25	4	54	37	20	16	5	8	40	90	84y
Croatia	5	–	23x	–	–	1x	–	–	1z	1z	–	90x
Cuba	5	70	26	47	16	4	–	0z	2z	5z	–	88
Cyprus	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Czech Republic	7x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	7x	–	65	31	37	23y	18y	7y	9y	45y	98	40y
Democratic Republic of the Congo	12x	48	36	82	64	31	25	8	10	46	85	79
Denmark	5x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Djibouti	10	55	1	23	18	33y	31y	9y	17y	33y	86	0
Dominica	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dominican Republic	11	74	9	62	21	4	7	2	3	18	–	19
Ecuador	10	–	40	77	23	9	6	1z	2z	23z	–	99x
Egypt	13	56	53	66	35y	8	6	1	7	29	68w	79
El Salvador	7	33	31	–	–	9y	6y	–	–	19y	–	62x
Equatorial Guinea	13x	–	24x	–	–	19x	16x	5x	9x	43x	–	33x
Eritrea	14x	78x	52x	43x	62x	40x	35x	13x	15x	44x	49	68x
Estonia	4x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ethiopia	20	69	49	54	88y	38	33	11	12	51	88	20
Fiji	10	57	40	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	31x
Finland	4x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

	% of infants with low birthweight 2003–2008*	Early initiation of breastfeeding (%) 2003–2008*	% of children (2003–2008*) who are:			% of under-fives (2003–2008*) suffering from:					Vitamin A supplementation coverage rate (6–59 months) 2008 Full coverage <sup>a</sup> (%)	% of households consuming iodized salt 2003–2008*
			exclusively breastfed (< 6 months)	breastfed with complementary food (6–9 months)	still breastfeeding (20–23 months)	underweight (NCHS/WHO)		wasting (WHO)	stunting (WHO)			
						moderate & severe	moderate & severe			moderate & severe		
France	7x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Gabon	14x	71x	6x	62x	9x	12x	8x	2x	4x	25x	0	36x
Gambia	20	48	41	44	53	20	16	4	7	28	28	7
Georgia	5	37	11	35	20	2	2	1	3	13	–	87
Germany	7x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ghana	9	35	63	75	44	–	14	3	9	28	24	32
Greece	8x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	9	–	39x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guatemala	12x	60x	51x	67x	47x	23x	18x	4x	2x	54x	20	76
Guinea	12	35	48	32	–	26	21	7	8	40	94	41
Guinea-Bissau	24	23	16	35	61	19	15	4	8	47	66	1
Guyana	19	43	21	34	48	12	10	3	8	17	–	–
Haiti	25	44	41	87	35	22	18	6	10	29	–	3
Holy See	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Honduras	10	79	30	69	48	11	8	1	1	29	–	80x
Hungary	9x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Iceland	4x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
India	28	25	46	57	77	48	43	16	20	48	53	51
Indonesia	9	39	32	75	50	–	18	5	14	37	86	62y
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	7	56	23	68	58	5	–	–	4z	5z	–	99y
Iraq	15	31	25	51	36	8	6	2	6	26	–	28
Ireland	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Israel	8x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Italy	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Jamaica	12	62	15	36	24	–	2	–	2	4	–	100x
Japan	8x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Jordan	13	39	22	66	11	4x	4x	1x	3x	12x	–	88x
Kazakhstan	6	64	17	39	16	4	4	1	5	17	–	92
Kenya	10	52	13	84	57	21y	–	4z	6z	35z	27	91x
Kiribati	5x	–	80x	–	–	13x	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kuwait	7x	–	12x	26x	9x	10x	–	3z	11z	24z	–	–
Kyrgyzstan	5	65	32	49	26	3	2	0	3	18	99	76
Lao People's Democratic Republic	11	30	26	70	48	37	31	9	7	48	–	84y
Latvia	5x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lebanon	6x	–	27x	35x	11x	4	–	–	5z	11z	–	92
Lesotho	13	63	36	79	60	–	14y	3y	2y	42y	–	91
Liberia	14	67	29	62	47	24	19	6	8	39	–	–
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	7x	–	–	–	23x	5x	4x	–	4x	21x	–	90x
Liechtenstein	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lithuania	4x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Luxembourg	8x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madagascar	17	62	67	78	64	42	36	12	15	53	97	75
Malawi	13	58	57	89	72	21	15	3	4	53	95	50
Malaysia	9x	–	29x	–	12x	8	–	1z	–	–	–	–
Maldives	22x	–	10x	85x	–	30x	26x	7x	13x	32x	–	44x
Mali	19	46	38	30	56	32	27	10	15	38	97	79
Malta	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Marshall Islands	18	73	31	77	53	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mauritania	34	60	16	72	–	31y	24y	7y	12y	32y	87	2
Mauritius	14	–	21x	–	–	15x	–	2z	14z	10z	–	0x
Mexico	8	–	38x	36x	21x	5	3	–	2	16	–	91
Micronesia (Federated States of)	18x	–	60x	–	–	15x	–	–	–	–	–	–
Monaco	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mongolia	6	78	57	57	65	6	5	1	3	27	–	83y
Montenegro	4	25	19	35	13	3	2	1	4	7	–	71x
Morocco	15	52	31	66	15	10	9	2	10	23	–	21
Mozambique	15	63	37	84	54	18	–	4z	4z	44z	83	25
Myanmar	15x	–	15	66	67	32	30	9	11	41	94	93
Namibia	16	71	24	72	28	21	17	4	8	29	–	63x
Nauru	27	76	67	65	65y	–	5	1	1	24	–	–
Nepal	21	35	53	75	95	45	39	11	13	49	93	63x

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Countries and territories	% of infants with low birthweight 2003–2008*	Early initiation of breastfeeding (%) 2003–2008*	% of children (2003–2008*) who are:			% of under-fives (2003–2008*) suffering from:					Vitamin A supplementation coverage rate (6–59 months) 2008	% of households consuming iodized salt 2003–2008*
			exclusively breastfed (<6 months)	breastfed with complementary food (6–9 months)	still breastfeeding (20–23 months)	underweight (NCHS/WHO)		wasting (WHO)	stunting (WHO)	Full coverage <sup>a</sup> (%)		
						moderate & severe	moderate & severe					
Netherlands	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
New Zealand	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	83x
Nicaragua	8	54	31	76	43	7	6	1	1	22	–	97
Niger	27	38	4	66	–	43y	36y	12y	12y	47y	92	46
Nigeria	14	32	13	75	32	27	23	9	14	41	74	97
Niue	0x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Norway	5x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Occupied Palestinian Territory	7	–	27	–	–	3	–	0z	1z	10z	–	86
Oman	9	85x	–	91x	73x	18x	11x	2x	7x	13x	–	69x
Pakistan	32	29	37	36	55	38x	31x	13x	14x	42x	97	17x
Palau	9x	–	59x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Panama	10	–	25x	38x	21x	8x	6x	1x	1x	22x	–	95x
Papua New Guinea	10	–	56	76	72	26y	18y	5y	5y	43y	–	92
Paraguay	9	21x	22	60	–	4	3	–	1	18	–	94y
Peru	8	48	69	–	–	5	6	1	1	30	–	91
Philippines	20	54	34	58	34	28	21	5	6	34	86	45
Poland	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Portugal	8x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Qatar	10x	–	12x	48x	21x	6x	–	–	2z	8z	–	–
Republic of Korea	4x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Republic of Moldova	6	65	46	18	2	4	3	1	5	10	–	60
Romania	8	–	16	41	–	3x	4x	1x	4x	13x	–	74
Russian Federation	6	–	–	–	–	3x	–	1z	4z	13z	–	35y
Rwanda	6	41	88	69	77	23	18	4	5	51	–	88
Saint Kitts and Nevis	11	–	56x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	100x
Saint Lucia	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Samoa	4x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
San Marino	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sao Tome and Principe	8	35	60	60	18	9	7	1	9	29	23	37
Saudi Arabia	11x	–	31x	60x	30x	14x	–	3z	11z	20z	–	–
Senegal	19	23	34	61	42	17	14	4	9	19	90	41
Serbia	5	17	15	39	8	2	1	0	4	7	–	73x
Seychelles	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sierra Leone	24	33	11	73	50	–	21	7	10	36	12	45
Singapore	8x	–	–	–	–	3x	3x	0x	4x	4x	–	–
Slovakia	7x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Slovenia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Solomon Islands	13	75	74	81	67	–	12	2	4	33	–	–
Somalia	–	26	9	15	35	36	32	12	13	42	100	1
South Africa	15x	61	8	49	31	12	–	3z	5z	27z	39	62x
Spain	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sri Lanka	18	–	76	86	83	–	22	4	15	18	–	94y
Sudan	31x	–	34	56	35	31	27	10	16	40	67	11
Suriname	13x	34	2	34	15	10	7	1	5	11	–	–
Swaziland	9	67	32	77	31	7	5	1	3	29	44	80
Sweden	4x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switzerland	6x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Syrian Arab Republic	9	32	29	37	16	10	9	2	10	28	–	79
Tajikistan	10	61	25	15	34	18	15	6	7	39	87	49
Thailand	9	50	5	43	19	9	7	1	5	16	–	47
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6	–	37x	8x	10x	2	2	0	3	11	–	94y
Timor-Leste	12	–	31	82	35	49	–	15z	25z	54z	–	60
Togo	12	53	48	70	–	21	21	3	6	27	64	25
Tonga	3x	–	62x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Trinidad and Tobago	19	41	13	43	22	6x	–	1z	4z	4z	–	28
Tunisia	5	87	6	61	15	3	–	0z	2z	6z	–	97x
Turkey	16x	52x	40	71	26y	3	–	0z	1z	10z	–	69
Turkmenistan	4	60	11	54	37	11	8	2	7	19	–	87
Tuvalu	5x	–	35	40	51y	–	2	0	3	10	–	–
Uganda	14	42	60	80	54	20	16	4	6	38	67	96

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			exclusively breastfed (< 6 months)	breastfed with complementary food (6–9 months)	still breastfeeding (20–23 months)	underweight (NCHS/WHO)		wasting (WHO)	stunting (WHO)			
						moderate & severe	moderate & severe			severe		
Ukraine	4	41	18	55	6	1x	–	0z	0z	3z	–	18
United Arab Emirates	15x	–	34x	52x	29x	14x	–	3z	15z	17z	–	–
United Kingdom	8x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
United Republic of Tanzania	10	67	41	91	55	22	17	4	4	44	93	43
United States	8x	–	–	–	–	2x	1x	0x	0x	3x	–	–
Uruguay	9	60	57	35	28	5x	5x	2x	2x	15x	–	–
Uzbekistan	5	67	26	45	38	5	4	1	4	19	38	53
Vanuatu	10	72	40	62	32	16	–	2z	7z	20z	–	23
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	9	–	7x	50x	31x	5	–	–	4z	12z	–	90x
Viet Nam	7	58	17	70	23	20	–	5z	8z	36z	98w	93
Yemen	32x	30	12	76	–	46	43	19	15	58	–	30
Zambia	11	57	61	93	42	19	15	3	5	45	96	77x
Zimbabwe	11	69	22	79	40y	17	12	3	7	33	20	91y

## SUMMARY INDICATORS

Africa <sup>Δ</sup>	14	47	32	69	49	25	21	7	10	40	73	60
Sub-Saharan Africa <sup>Δ</sup>	15	46	31	70	52	27	23	8	10	42	73	60
Eastern and Southern Africa	14	59	42	72	61	26	23	7	8	45	73	48
West and Central Africa	16	36	22	70	45	28	22	8	11	40	73	73
Middle East and North Africa	11	47	30	60	34	14	14	5	10	32	–	60
Asia <sup>Δ</sup>	18	31**	41	51	53	31	27	13	17	36	70**	73
South Asia	27	27	45	55	75	47	42	15	19	48	65	55
East Asia and Pacific	6	46**	–	45	26	12	11	–	–	22	89**	86
Latin America and Caribbean	9	48	41	69	28	6	4	–	2	14	–	89
CEE/CIS	6	–	27	53	23	5	–	–	–	–	–	51
Industrialized countries <sup>§</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Developing countries <sup>§</sup>	16	39**	37	58	50	26	23	10	13	34	71**	72
Least developed countries <sup>§</sup>	17	49	39	69	67	33	28	9	11	45	85	57
World	16	39**	37	57	49	26	23	10	13	34	71**	70

§ Includes territories within each country category or regional group. Countries and territories in each country category or regional group are listed on page 44.

## DEFINITIONS OF THE INDICATORS

**Low birthweight** – Percentage of infants weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth.

**Early initiation of breastfeeding** – Percentage of infants who are put to the breast within one hour of birth.

**Underweight (NCHS/WHO)** – Moderate and severe: Percentage of children aged 0–59 months who are below minus two standard deviations from median weight for age of the NCHS/WHO reference population.

**Underweight (WHO)** – Moderate and severe: Percentage of children aged 0–59 months who are below minus two standard deviations from median weight for age of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards; Severe: Percentage of children aged 0–59 months who are below minus three standard deviations from median weight for age of the WHO Child Growth Standards.

**Wasting (WHO)** – Moderate and severe: Percentage of children aged 0–59 months who are below minus two standard deviations from median weight for height of the WHO Child Growth Standards.

**Stunting (WHO)** – Moderate and severe: Percentage of children aged 0–59 months who are below minus two standard deviations from median height for age of the WHO Child Growth Standards.

**Vitamin A supplementation (full coverage)** – The estimated percentage of children aged 6–59 months reached with 2 doses of vitamin A supplements in 2008.

**Iodized salt consumption** – Percentage of households consuming adequately iodized salt (15 parts per million or more).

## NOTES

- Data not available.
- w Identifies countries with national vitamin A supplementation programmes targeted towards a reduced age range. Coverage figure is reported as targeted.
- x Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition or refer to only part of a country. Such data are not included in the calculation of regional and global averages.
- y Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition or refer to only part of a country. Such data are included in the calculation of regional and global averages.
- z Data refer to the NCHS/WHO reference population. Such data are not included in the calculation of regional and global averages.
- Δ Full coverage with vitamin A supplements is reported as the lower percentage of 2 annual coverage points (i.e., lower point between round 1 (January–June) and round 2 (July–December) of 2008).
- \* Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading.
- \*\* Excludes China.
- # For a complete list of countries and territories in the regions and subregions, see page 44.

## MAIN DATA SOURCES

**Low birthweight** – Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), other national household surveys, data from routine reporting systems, UNICEF and WHO.

**Breastfeeding** – DHS, MICS, other national household surveys and UNICEF.

**Underweight, wasting and stunting** – DHS, MICS, other national household surveys, WHO and UNICEF.

**Vitamin A** – UNICEF.

**Salt iodization** – DHS, MICS, other national household surveys and UNICEF.