

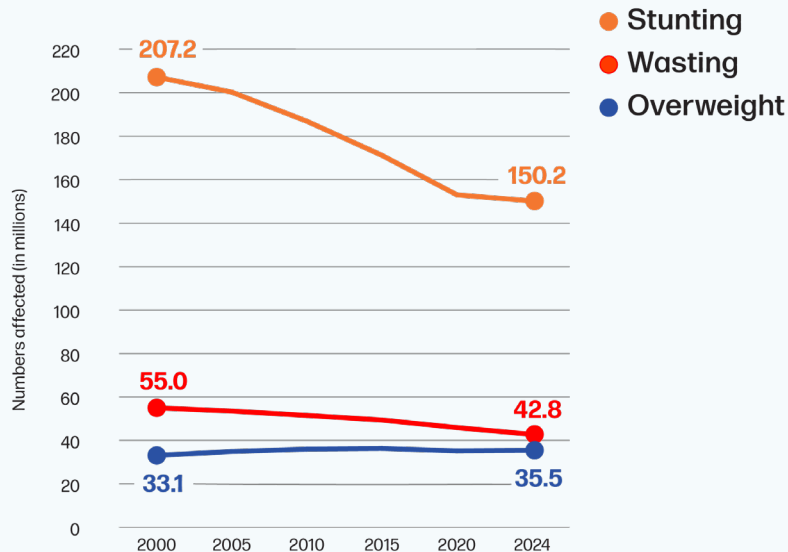
Country Programmes Driving Nutrition Progress: Delivering the Global Nutrition Targets for Every Child



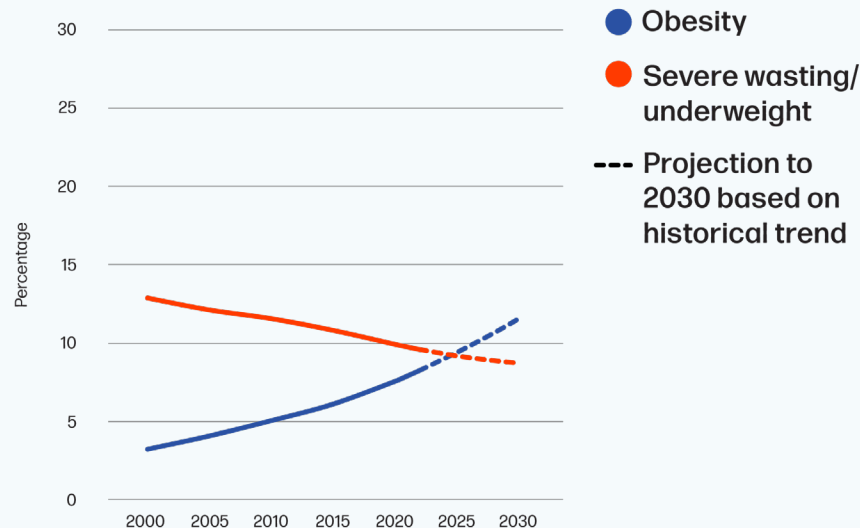
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UNICEF Executive Board
2026 second regular session (1–4 September 2026)
Item 4(a): UNICEF programme cooperation: Country programme documents
Reference documents: E/ICEF/2026/P/L.11–E/ICEF/2026/P/L.27

Progress and the burden that persists



Number (in millions) of children under 5 years affected by stunting, wasting and overweight, global, 2000–2024



Trends in the percentage of children and adolescents with (a) obesity; and (b) severe wasting/underweight, from 2000 and projected to 2030, ages 5–19 years, globally

Why scaling up nutrition matters



SURVIVAL

6.2 M

child deaths
averted



GROWTH

27 M

fewer cases of
child stunting



EDUCATION

+1 yr

increase in school
completion



ECONOMIC

4-11%

GDP growth
(Asia/Africa)

Scaling up solutions that work

Government-led action to address the unfinished agenda of maternal and child undernutrition and rising rates of overweight and obesity



Maternal nutrition

- Antenatal counselling and micronutrient supplementation
- Large scale food fortification



Breastfeeding promotion

- Infant and young child nutrition counselling
- Growth monitoring and promotion



Complementary feeding

- Promoting nutritious first foods
- Small-quantity lipid-based food supplements



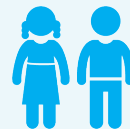
Micronutrient supplementation

- Micronutrient supplementation
- Deworming prophylaxis



Treatment of child wasting

- Screening for child wasting
- Treatment with ready-to-use-therapeutic food



Nutrition of school-age children and adolescents

- Nutritious foods and micronutrient supplementation
- Healthy food environments
- Nutrition education

Complex forces are driving a global nutrition crisis and threatening gains



IMMEDIATE

Poor food environments
Caregivers cannot access nutritious foods for their children and/or are exposed to widely available, cheap and unhealthy foods and beverages.



Poor child feeding practices
Caregivers lack information, support and agency to feed their children adequately; and/or are exposed to aggressive marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages.



Household income poverty
Caregivers lack financial access to provide nutritious foods for their young children.



UNDERLYING

Persistent and emerging crises in the form of conflicts, climate shocks, disease outbreaks.



Intensifying global debt crisis impacts government spending on essential nutrition services.



Declining development assistance

UNICEF is undertaking strategic shifts to programme more efficiently and equitably

Guided by the UNICEF Nutrition Strategy 2030, double-duty actions that tackle undernutrition and overweight are paired with context-specific reforms that optimize UNICEF technical assistance and resources.

1. POLICY REFORM
Advocate for policies and regulations that leverage population-level nutrition impact

2. DOMESTIC FINANCING
Mobilize national resources and co-financing

3. LOCALIZATION
Support local manufacturing and procurement of nutritious foods

4. YOUTH AS CHANGE AGENTS
Engage youth as change agents to influence policy and community norms

5. HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP
Continue to lead humanitarian action as cluster lead agency

6. PARTNERSHIPS
Leverage partnerships with UN agencies, civil society, private sector, academia

THANK YOU!

unicef 
for every child

