Georgia 2018

Nutritional Status of Children

Anthropometric Malnutrition Indicators

Key Messages

• 6% of children under 5 years of age in Georgia are overweight, 1% of children suffer from moderate or severe wasting, 6% - from moderate or severe stunting and 2% of children are moderately and severely underweight.

• The age distribution of malnutrition indicators shows that the highest proportion of children (10%) who are overweight are at 12-17 months. The highest proportion of children who are underweight and wasting are at 0-5 months (5%). The percentage of stunted children is the highest (8%) at the age group of 24-35 months.

• Anthropometric malnutrition is negatively correlated with the level of education of mother/caretaker. Stunting is the highest in case of mother’s/caretaker’s primary or lower secondary education (14%) and is the lowest for mother’s/caretaker’s higher education level (4%).

Stunting: SDG 2.2.1

Stunting refers to a child who is too short for his or her age. Stunting is the failure to grow both physically and cognitively and is the result of chronic or recurrent malnutrition.

Overweight: SDG 2.2.2

Overweight refers to a child who is too heavy for his or her height. This form of malnutrition results from expending too few calories for the amount consumed from food and drinks and increases the risk of noncommunicable diseases later in life.

Wasting: SDG 2.2.2

Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for his or her height. Wasting, or acute malnutrition, 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.

Underweight

Underweight is a composite form of undernutrition that can include elements of stunting and wasting (i.e. an underweight child can have a reduced weight for their age due to being too short for their age and/or being too thin for their height).

Anthropometric Malnutrition Indicators by Age

Percentage children who are underweight, stunted, wasted and overweight, by age in months
The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Georgia MICS 2018 related to the Nutritional Status of Children. Data from this snapshot can be found in table TC. 8.1.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.