In Nepal, one in three children under five years of age (32%) are stunted. While children who come from poor households or whose mother/caretaker had no education are significantly more likely to be stunted (44% and 39% respectively) than are children from wealthier or more educated households, 18% of children (nearly one in five) who come from rich households or who have a mother/caretaker with a higher education are stunted. These data indicate the pervasiveness of stunting in Nepal.

Twelve percent (12%) of children under five years of age in Nepal are moderately or severely wasted. Similar to data for stunting, children from poor households or whose mother/caretaker has no education are more likely to be wasted than are children from wealthier or more educated households.

In Nepal, nearly one quarter (24%) of children under five years of age are underweight for their age.

In Karnali Province, nearly half (48%) of children under five years of age are stunted while 18% are moderately or severely wasted.
The Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2019 by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF and Government of Nepal provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Nepal MICS 2019 related to the Nutritional Status of Children. Data from this snapshot can be found in table TC.8.1 in the Survey Findings Report.

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