Goal
Reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half

Child Malnutrition

Result
Underweight prevalence declined from 32 per cent to 28 per cent in developing countries over the past decade. The most remarkable progress has been in East Asia and the Pacific.

... but
The high levels of undernutrition in children and women in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa pose a major challenge for child survival and development. Progress is made when provision of basic services is combined with support for initiatives that inform and empower communities and families (particularly women) to ensure adequate nutrient intake and prevent infectious disease.

Issue
Malnutrition is associated with about half of all child deaths worldwide. Malnourished children have lowered resistance to infection; they are more likely to die from common childhood ailments like diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections; and for those who survive, frequent illness saps their nutritional status, locking them into a vicious cycle of recurring sickness, faltering growth and diminished learning ability.

Where chronic malnutrition is highest
Countries where stunting in under-fives is 40 per cent or more
- Korea, Dem. People’s Rep. 60
- Zambia 59
- Burundi 57
- Nepal 54
- Afghanistan 52
- Yemen 52
- Ethiopia 51
- Madagascar 49
- Malawi 49
- Cambodia 46
- Guatemala 46
- India 46
- Nigeria 46
- Bangladesh 45
- Congo, Dem. Rep. 45
- Lesotho 44
- Mauritania 44
- Tanzania 44
- Rwanda 43
- Comoros 42
- Lao PDR 41
- Bhutan 40
- Niger 40


Progress during the 1990s
Countries where underweight prevalence declined by 25 per cent or more
- Tunisia 60
- Dominican Rep. 56
- Bhutan 51
- Chile 50
- China 49
- Mexico 48
- Jamaica 46
- Venezuela 46
- Guyana 43
- Algeria 43
- Indonesia 35
- Colombia 34
- Guatemala 34
- Bolivia 28
- Peru 28
- Bangladesh 27
- El Salvador 27
- Viet Nam 26

Goal: 50% reduction
150 million children in developing countries are still malnourished

More than half of underweight children live in South Asia

Figures in millions

- South Asia: 32
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 78
- East Asia/Pacific: 27
- Middle East/North Africa: 4
- Latin America/Caribbean: 2
- CEE/CIS: 2

CEECIS region is not included in this graph because of insufficient 1990 data.

Per cent of under-fives underweight, 1995-2000

- Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Botswana: 15
  - Zimbabwe: 13
  - Congo: 14
  - Lesotho: 16
  - Mauritius: 16
  - Sao Tome and Principe: 16
  - Gambia: 17
  - Senegal: 18
  - Cameroon: 21
  - Côte d’Ivoire: 21
  - Guinea: 23
  - Guinea-Bissau: 23
  - Kenya: 23
  - Mauritania: 23
  - Central African Rep.: 24
  - Comoros: 25
  - Ghana: 25
  - Malawi: 25
  - Togo: 25
  - Zambia: 25
  - Mozambique: 26
  - Somalia: 26
  - Uganda: 26
  - Nigeria: 27
  - Sierra Leone: 27
  - Chad: 29
  - Benin: 29
  - Rwanda: 29
  - Tanzania: 29
  - Regional average: 30

- Middle East/North Africa
  - Lebanon: 3
  - Occupied Palestinian Territory: 4
  - Tunisia: 4
  - Jordan: 5
  - Libya: 5
  - Algeria: 6
  - Qatar: 6
  - Bahrain: 9
  - Kuwait: 10
  - Iran: 11
  - Egypt: 12
  - Syria: 13
  - Saudi Arabia: 14
  - United Arab Emirates: 14
  - Regional average: 15

- East Asia/Pacific
  - China: 10
  - Mongolia: 13
  - Regional average: 17
  - Malaysia: 18
  - Indonesia: 26
  - Philippines: 28
  - Viet Nam: 33
  - Myanmar: 36
  - Lao People’s Dem. Rep.: 40
  - Cambodia: 46
  - Korea, Dem. People’s Rep.: 60

- South Asia
  - Bhutan: 19
  - Sri Lanka: 33
  - Pakistan: 58
  - Maldives: 43
  - Regional average: 46

- Latin America/Caribbean
  - Chile: 1
  - Cuba: 4
  - Jamaica: 4
  - Costa Rica: 5
  - Dominican Rep.: 5
  - Paraguay: 5
  - Uruguay: 5
  - Venezuela: 5
  - Brazil: 6
  - Colombia: 7
  - Panama: 7
  - Regional average: 8

- CEE/CIS
  - Croatia: 1
  - Yugoslavia: 2
  - Armenia: 3
  - Georgia: 3
  - Moldova, Rep.: 3
  - Russian Federation: 3
  - Ukraine: 3
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina: 4
  - Kazakhstan: 4
  - FYR Macedonia: 6
  - Regional average: 7

Old data or no data:

- Sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Liberia, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland
- Middle East/North Africa: Cyprus, Morocco
- East Asia/Pacific: Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, East Timor, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- Latin America/Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent/Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
- CEE/CIS: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan