Levels and trends in child malnutrition

UNICEF / WHO / World Bank Group
Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates

Key findings of the 2025 edition

STUNTING

150.2 million

Stunting affected an estimated 23.2 per cent or 150.2 million children under 5 globally in 2024

WASTING

42.8 million

In 2024, wasting threatened the lives of an estimated 6.6 per cent or 42.8 million children under 5 globally

OVERWEIGHT

35.5 million

An estimated 5.5 per cent or 35.5 million children under 5 around the world were living with overweight in 2024

unicef

World Health Organization

WORLD BANK GROUP

The new Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates of 2025 supersede former analyses and results published by UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank Group

INTRODUCTION

SLIPPING PROGRESS ON STUNTING THREATENS GLOBAL GAINS IN REDUCING CHILD MALNUTRITION

Malnutrition is a violation of children's rights, while good nutrition sets children on the path to grow, develop, learn and reach their full potential. Despite significant progress over the past two decades, the UNICEF, WHO, World Bank global and regional child malnutrition estimates reveal that we are still far from a world without malnutrition.

The joint estimates, published in 2025, cover indicators of stunting, wasting, severe wasting and overweight among children under 5. Globally, there are 150.2 million children under 5 affected by stunting. These children begin their lives at a marked disadvantage: they may never attain their full possible height and their brains may never develop to their full cognitive potential.

There are also 42.8 million children under 5 suffering from wasting, of which 12.2 million have severe wasting. Children with wasting have weakened immunity, are susceptible to long term developmental delays, and face an increased risk of death, particularly when wasting is severe. The number of children affected by wasting and severe wasting reported by the Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) are prevalence-based estimates predominantly based on survey data. These estimates should be considered an underestimate of the annual burden as they do not account for the cumulative number of cases that occur throughout the year.

Across the globe, childhood overweight and obesity are rising threats to children's nutrition. There are now 35.5 million children living with overweight globally, an increase of 2.4 million since 2000. The emergence of overweight and obesity has been shaped by harmful food environments, including industry marketing and greater access to processed foods along with lower levels of physical activity.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set ambitious targets for eliminating child malnutrition in all its forms. The world has made important progress towards these targets, including declines in child stunting that have continued for more than two decades. However, the JME reveals that this progress is insufficient to achieve the SDG targets by 2030.

Recent trends indicate a potential rise in stunting that puts the last two decades of progress at risk. While stunting trends are concerning, a trend towards declining child wasting signals progress in addressing the immediate causes of malnutrition. Rates of child overweight have remained unchanged over time, highlighting the need for more effective strategies to improve children's food environments.

In some regions, demographic shifts are contributing to a decline in the overall number of malnourished children, while other regions are not benefiting from demographic change. This uneven progress underscores the complexity of addressing child malnutrition globally and the importance of country-led efforts to give every child access to the nutritious diets, essential services and positive care practices they need to survive and thrive.

Improving children's nutrition requires effective and sustained multisystems efforts – driven by robust data on the nutrition situation – to prevent malnutrition before it starts and ensure early detection and treatment when prevention falls short. However, prior to the reduction of financial resources in development aid in 2025, a decrease in the availability of monitoring data for child malnutrition was noted corresponding with the period of COVID-19 pandemic, economic crises and the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. An absence of data undermines informed analysis and increases uncertainty about national progress towards reducing child malnutrition. Regular data collection is critical to monitor and analyse country, regional and global progress going forward.

Defining the forms of malnutrition* highlighted in this key findings report

Stunting refers to a child who is too short for his or her age. Children affected by stunting can suffer severe irreversible physical and cognitive damage that accompanies stunted growth. The devastating consequences of stunting can last a lifetime and even affect the next generation.

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

Overweight refers to a child who is too heavy for his or her height. This form of malnutrition results when energy intakes from food and beverages exceed children's energy requirements. Overweight increases the risk of diet-related noncommunicable diseases later in life.

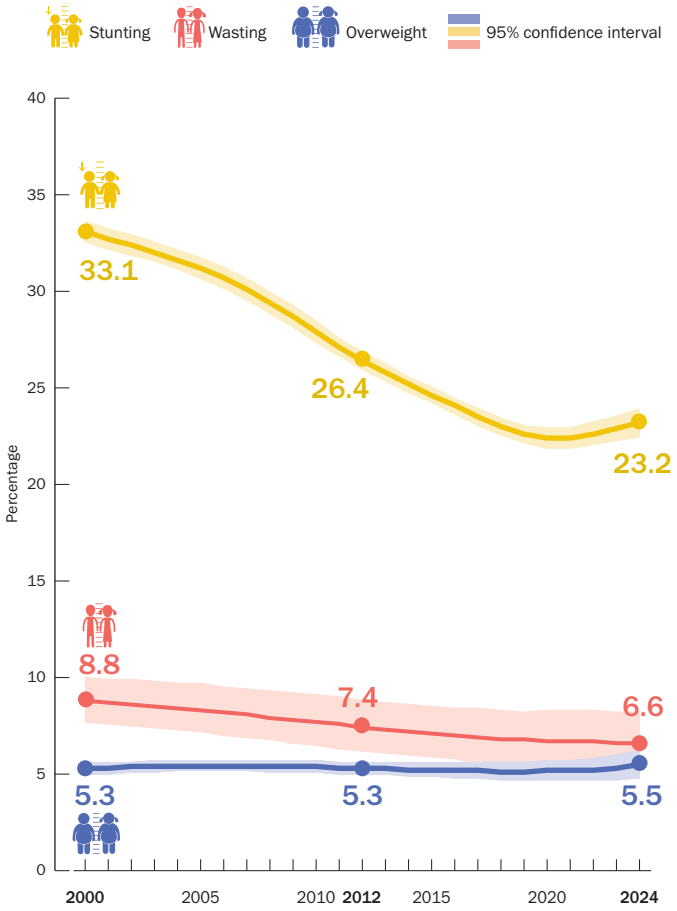
Stunting and overweight

Stunting and wasting

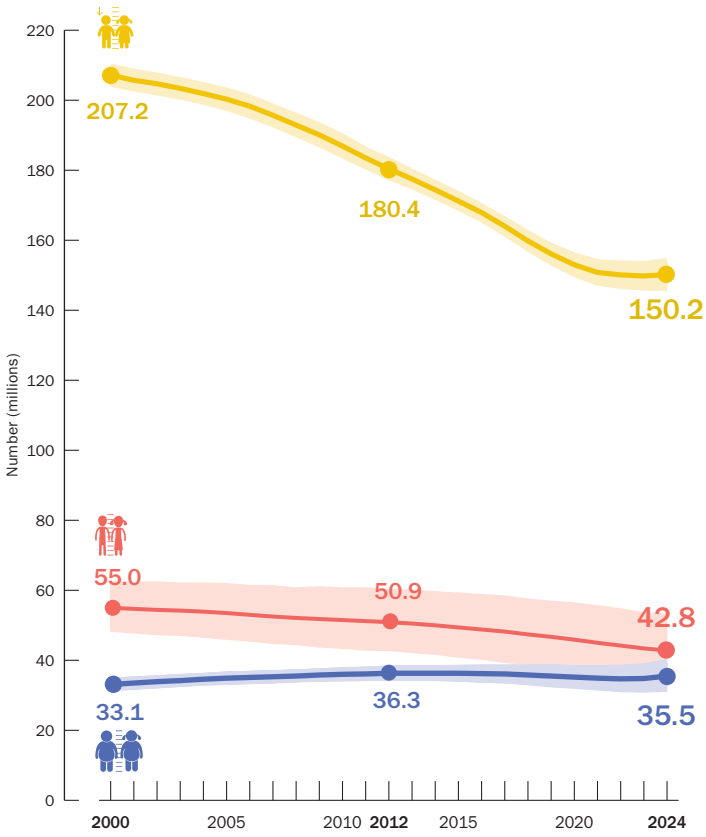
* Some children suffer from more than one form of malnutrition – such as **stunting and overweight** or **stunting and wasting**. There are currently no joint global or regional estimates for these combined conditions.

GLOBAL OVERVIEW

After a decade of declines in stunting, new data show a worrying halt to progress. While overweight has remained unchanged, 8 million fewer children are suffering from wasting today than in 2012.



Percentage of children under 5 affected by stunting, wasting and overweight, global, 2000–2024



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

Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition.

Most children with malnutrition live in Africa and Asia

In 2024, more than half of all children under 5 affected by stunting lived in Asia and two out of five lived in Africa

In 2024, 70 per cent of all children under 5 affected by wasting lived in Asia and more than one quarter lived in Africa

In 2024, almost half of all children under 5 affected by overweight lived in Asia and more than one quarter lived in Africa

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGs

Nearly 80 per cent of children under 5 live in countries that are on track or show some progress in stunting

Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: *Percentages may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding. **See notes on progress assessment categories on page 20.

The graphics above show progress towards the SDG 2.2 targets on stunting, wasting and overweight. The graphics in the left-hand column show progress by percentage of the global under-five population and the graphics in the two right-hand columns show progress by percentage of countries (globally and regionally).

For the graphics by percentage of the under-five population (left column), each country was weighted by the under-five population. For the graphs of the percentage of countries – global and regional, each country contributes equally towards the percentages, regardless of its population size.

Almost all children live in countries where progress assessment is available for all three indicators. Meanwhile, progress by country can only be assessed for 80 percent of countries for the stunting and overweight targets and for about 66 percent of countries for the wasting target.

When considering progress by under-five population, 78 per cent of children live in countries showing at least some progress towards the stunting reduction target, with 19 per cent living in countries that show no progress or a worsening situation. For overweight: 58 percent of children live in countries with no progress or a worsening situation. For wasting, 40 per cent of children live in countries with no progress or a worsening situation.

At the regional level, Northern America, Europe and Australia and Oceania have the highest proportion of countries for which progress cannot be assessed across the three indicators. Conversely, Africa has the highest proportion of countries for which progress can be assessed for all three indicators. Asia is contributing most to the global percentage of countries that are 'on track' to meet the stunting target, with 21 out of 48 countries (or 44 per cent) on track; followed by Europe with 17 out of 42 countries on track. In Africa and Asia, nearly 30% or more of countries are either seeing no progress or have worsening trends in child wasting. In Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania and Northern America, only one country or less per region is found to be on track for overweight.

Gaps in data in some regions make challenging to accurately assess progress towards global targets. Regular data collection (every three to five years) is therefore critical to monitor and analyse country, regional and global progress on child malnutrition going forward.

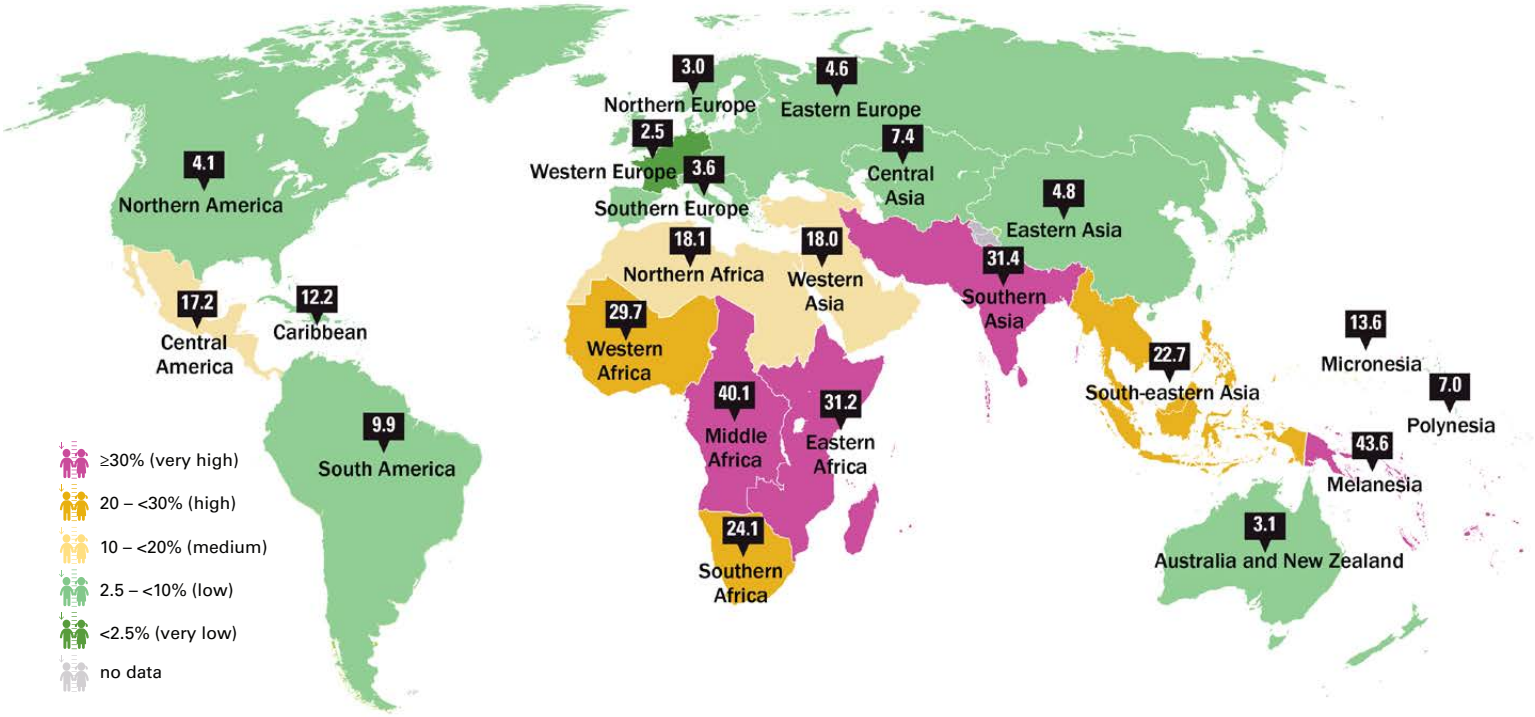
STUNTING

PREVALENCE

Global prevalence 2024
23.2%
Global prevalence 2012
26.4%

African and Asian sub-regions have the highest stunting prevalence

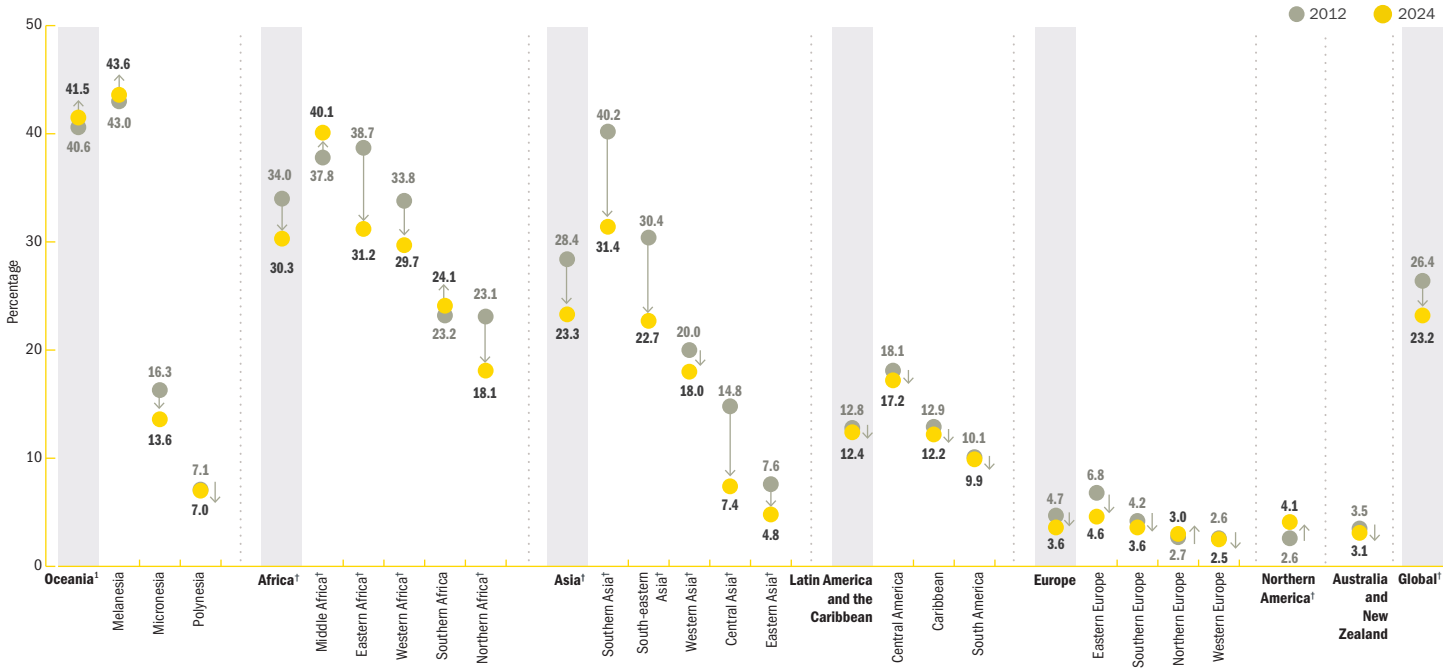
Percentage of children under 5 affected by stunting, by United Nations sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: These maps are stylized and not to scale and do not reflect a position by UNICEF, WHO or World Bank Group on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

Large disparities in stunting reduction remain across regions and sub-regions

Trends in the percentage of children under 5 affected by stunting, by United Nations region/sub-region, 2012 and 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: †Represents regions/sub-regions where the change has been significant. See page 16 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates. Assessed significance of difference at $p < 0.05$ using a Z-test on the logit scale, assuming independence (Rosner, 2015).

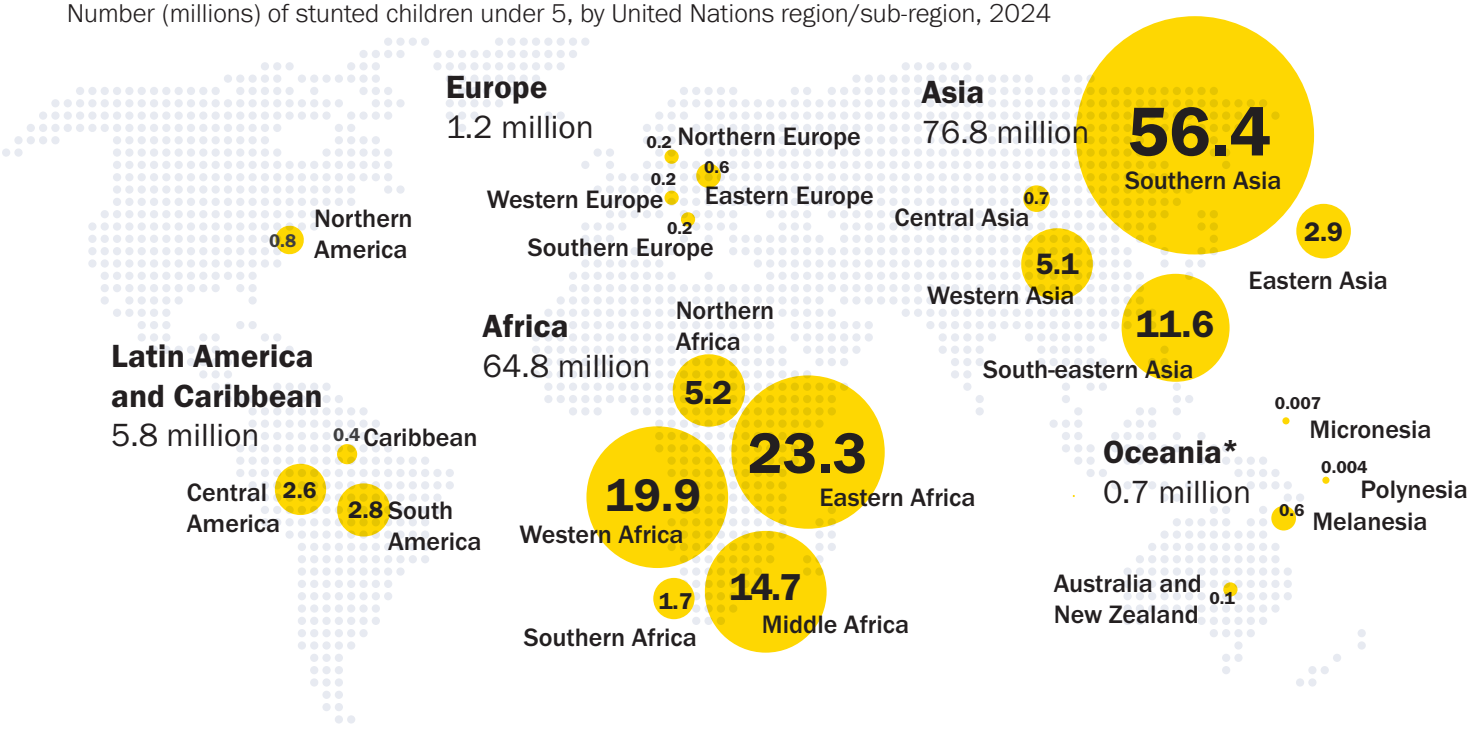
STUNTING

NUMBERS AFFECTED

Global number affected 2024
150.2 M
Global number affected 2012
180.4 M

Nearly two out of five children with stunted growth live in Southern Asia

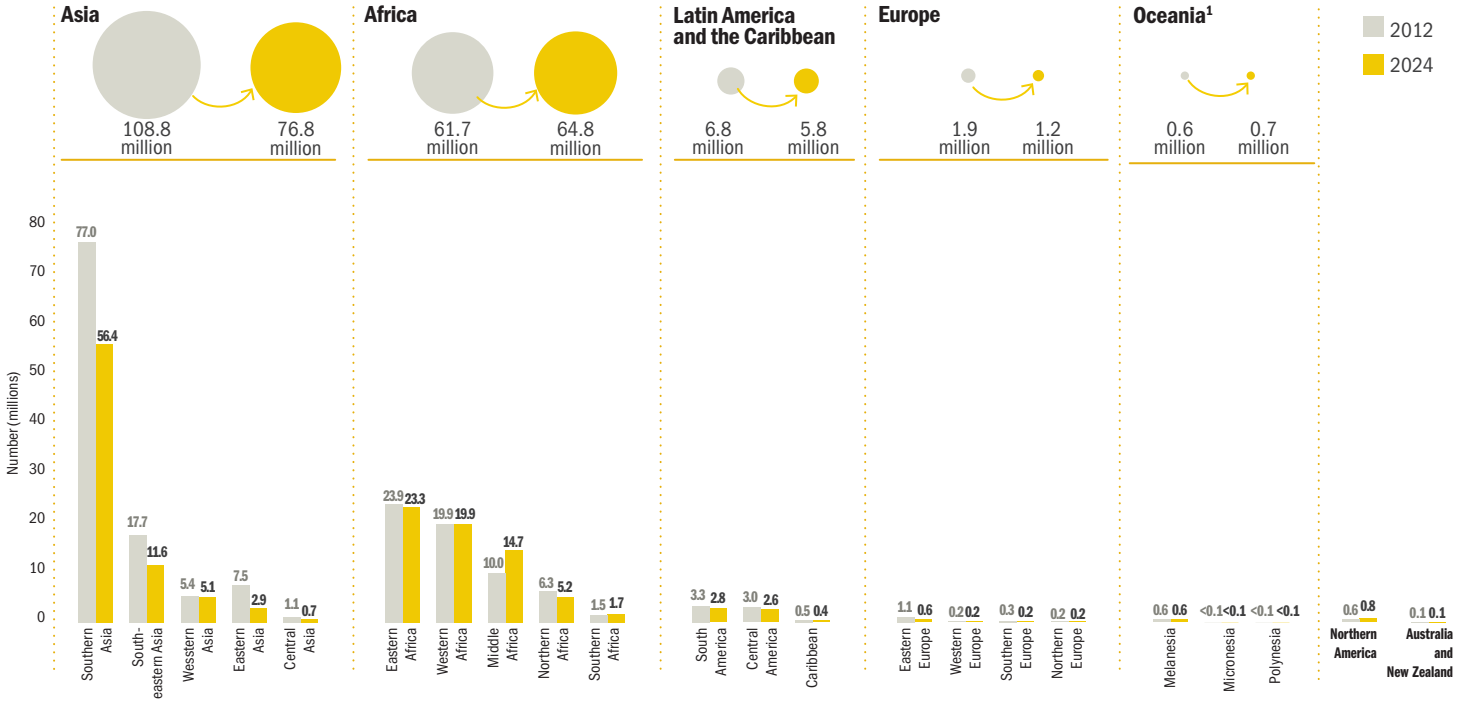
Number (millions) of stunted children under 5, by United Nations region/sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: *Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand. Aggregates may not add up due to rounding.

Africa is the only region where the number of children with stunting has significantly increased

Trends in the number (millions) of stunted children under 5, by United Nations region/sub-region, 2012 and 2024



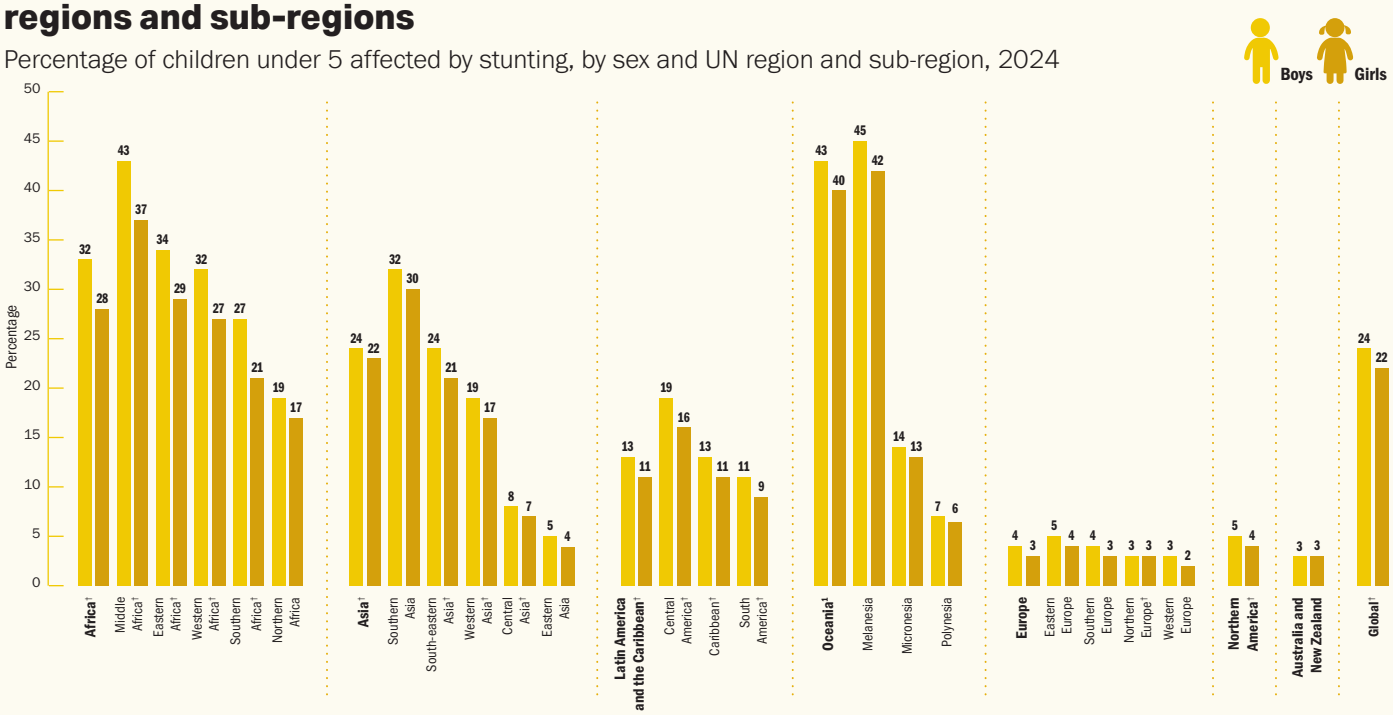
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand; See page 17 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

STUNTING

PREVALENCE DISAGGREGATED BY SEX

Boys are more likely to be affected by stunting than girls in all UN regions and sub-regions

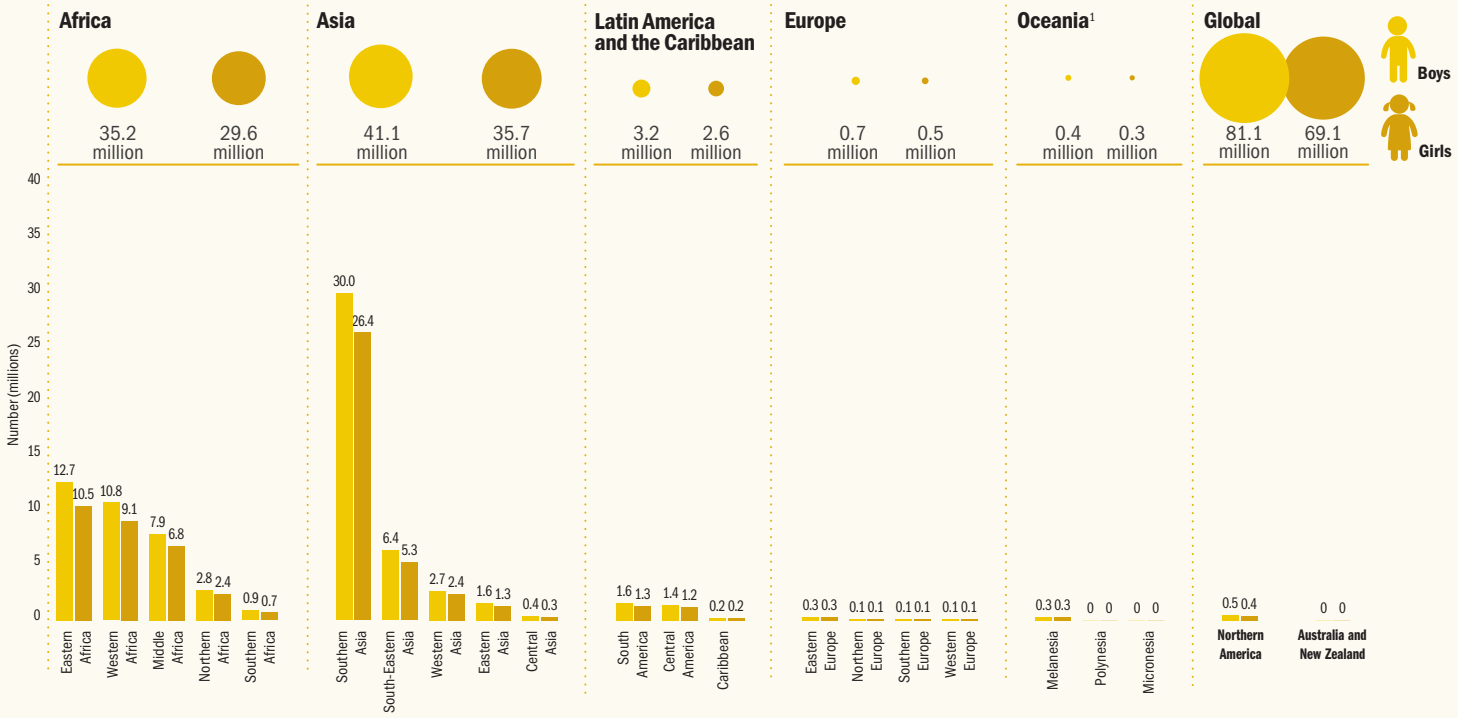
Percentage of children under 5 affected by stunting, by sex and UN region and sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand; †Represents significant difference between the estimates for girls and boys (Rosner, 2015). See page 18 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

Boys affected by stunting outnumber girls affected by stunting in all UN regions and sub-regions

Number (millions) of children under 5 affected by stunting, by sex and United Nations region/sub-region, 2024

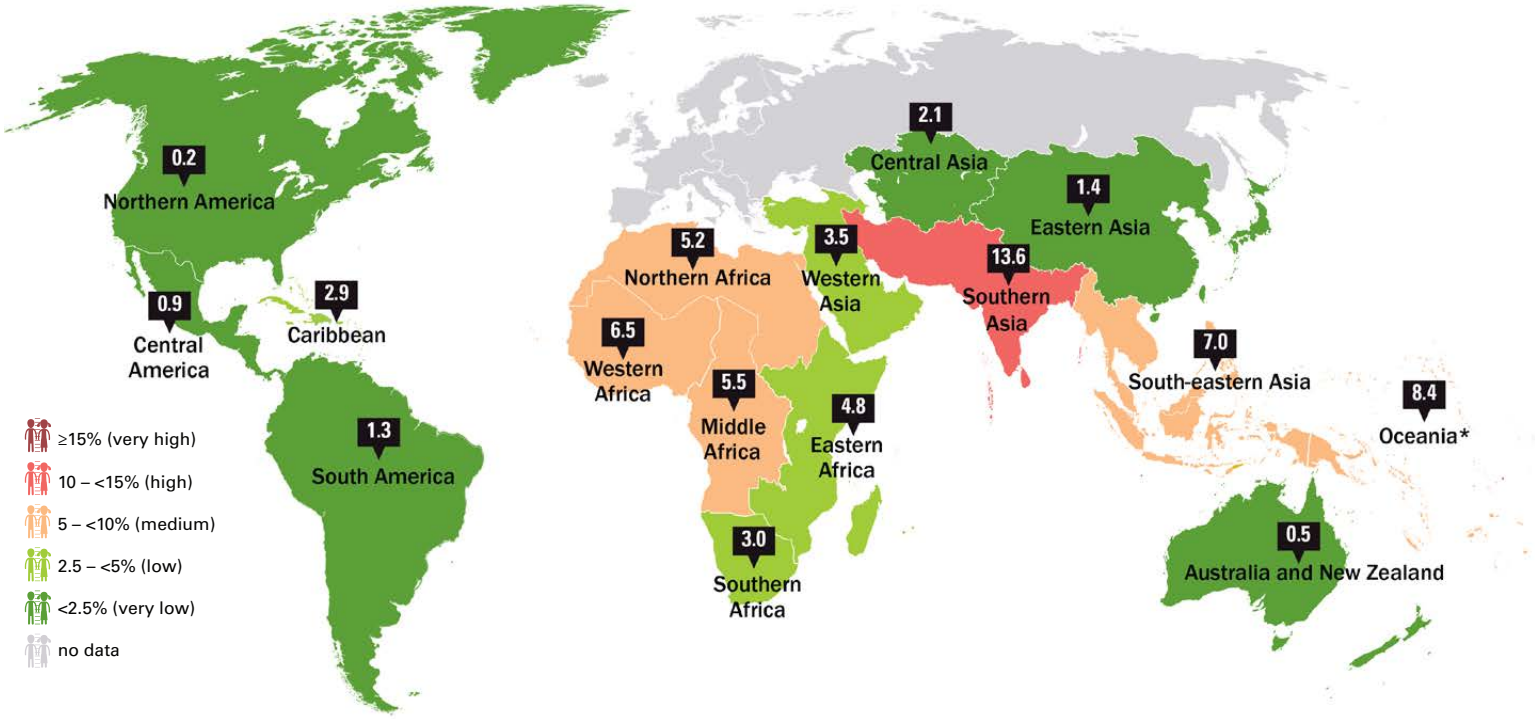


Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand. See page 19 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates

Global wasting prevalence 2024
6.6%
Global *severe* wasting prevalence 2024
1.9%

Southern Asia is the sub-region with the highest wasting prevalence in the world

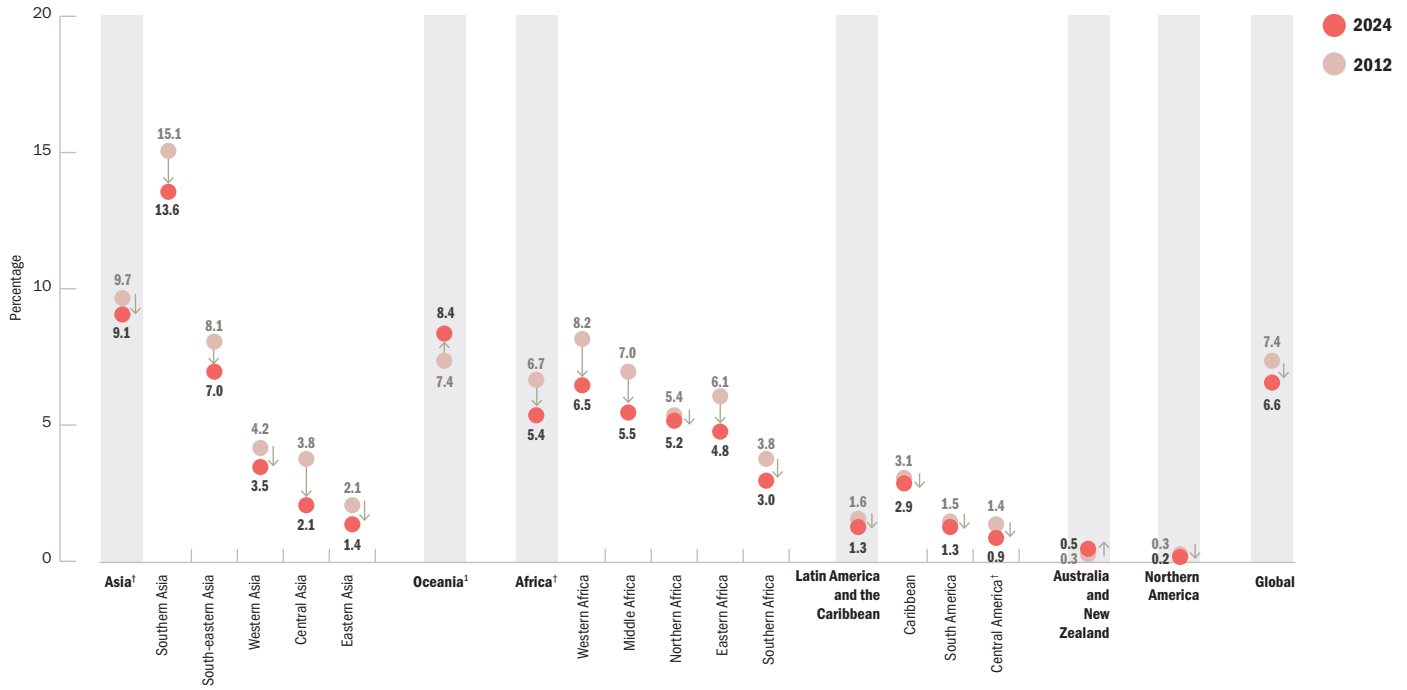
Percentage of children under 5 affected by wasting, by United Nations sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: *Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand. These maps are stylized and not to scale and do not reflect a position by UNICEF, WHO or World Bank Group on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

All UN regions showed a downward trend in wasting except Oceania

Trends in the percentage of children under 5 affected by wasting, by United Nations region/sub-region, 2012 and 2024

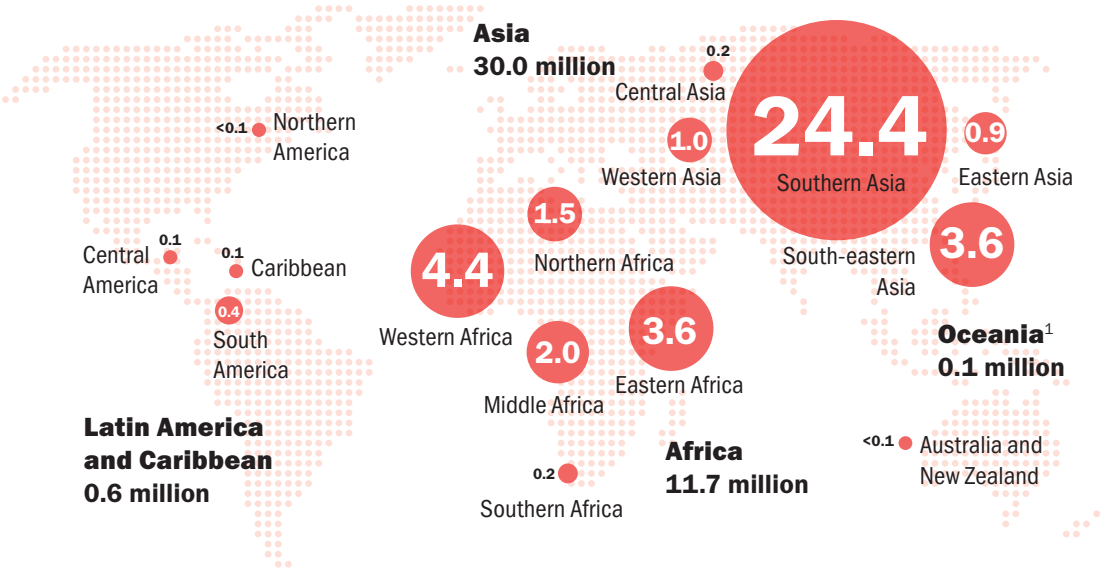


Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand. See page 15 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates. See page 16 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates

NUMBERS AFFECTED

In 2024, more than half of all children affected by wasting globally lived in Southern Asia

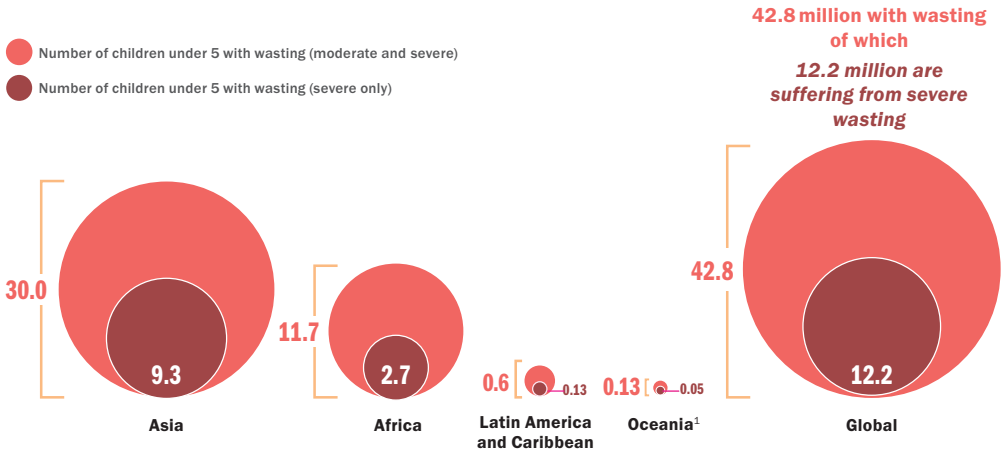
Number (millions) of children under 5 affected by wasting, by United Nations region/sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand.

Asia is home to the majority of children under 5 suffering from wasting and severe wasting

Number of children under 5 affected by wasting and severe wasting, by United Nations region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand.

The Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) do not adjust for the cumulative annual incidence of child wasting when calculating numbers affected.

The JME global and regional estimates on wasting and severe wasting are aligned with the SDG indicator definition and are based on national-level prevalence data which capture the cases of wasting at a given moment in time. As such, they do not reflect the cumulative number of cases of wasting that occur over the course of a year (Isanaka et al, 2021).

The JME global estimates of 42.8 million children under 5 affected by wasting and 12.2 million affected by severe wasting in 2024 should be considered as an underestimate of the total number of children affected over the course of the year.

Wasting is a form of acute malnutrition that can fluctuate due to seasonal patterns, environmental shocks and conflict, all of which can disrupt food security and access to clean water and healthcare. The JME does not adjust for seasonal factors that may affect wasting prevalence estimates.

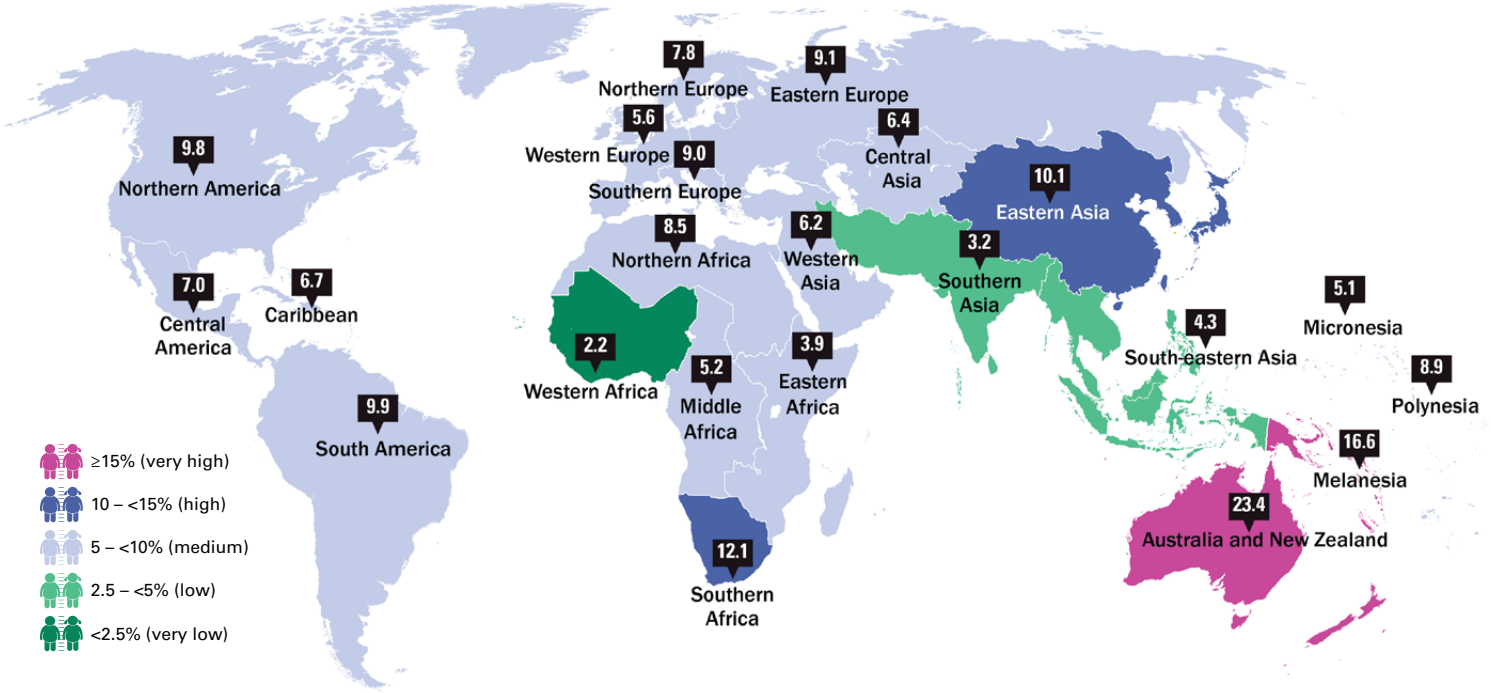
OVERWEIGHT

PREVALENCE

Global prevalence 2024
5.5%
Global prevalence 2012
5.3%

Overweight is a concern in almost all regions of the world

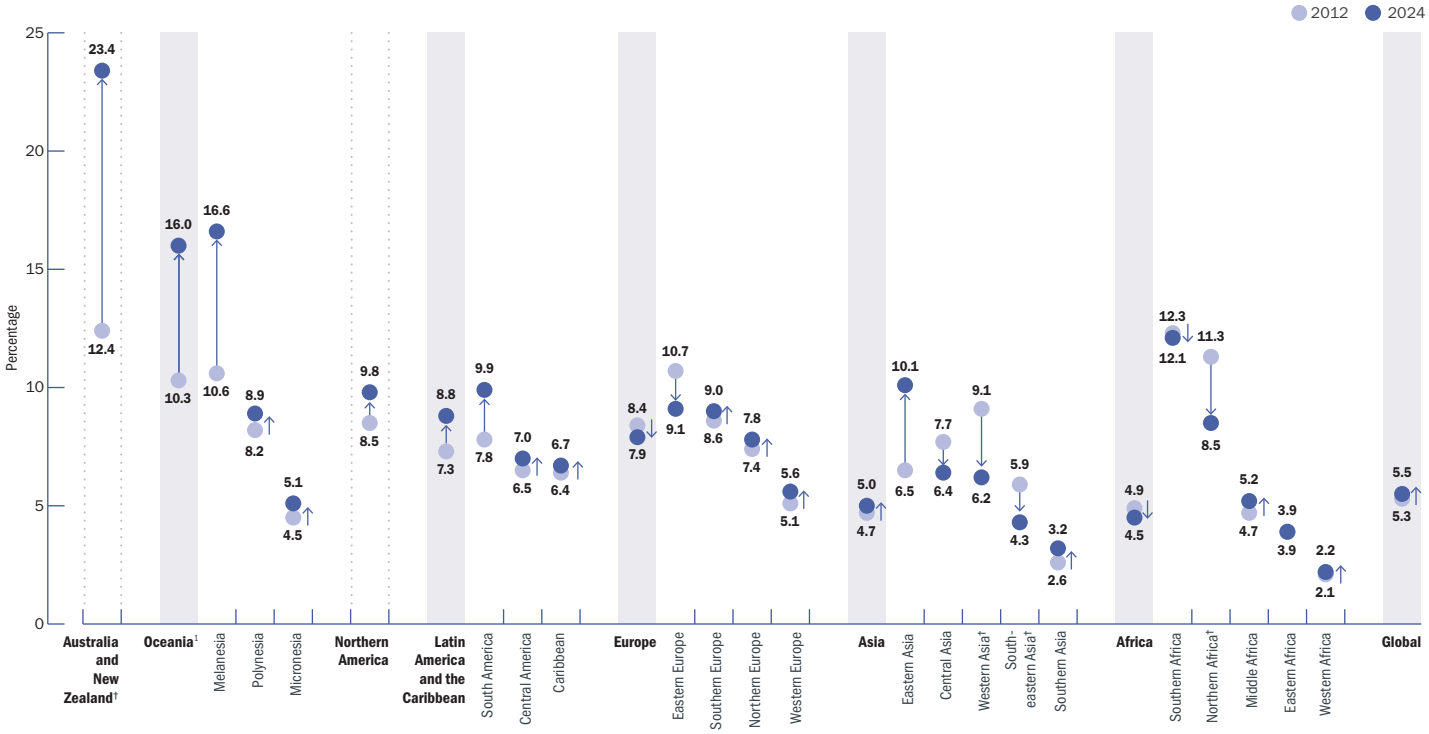
Percentage of children under 5 with overweight, by United Nations sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: These maps are stylized and not to scale and do not reflect a position by UNICEF, WHO or World Bank Group on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

No progress has been made in curbing overweight trends over the last 12 years, while drastic increases are evident in some regions

Trends in the percentage of children under 5 affected by overweight, by United Nations region/sub-region and global, 2012–2024



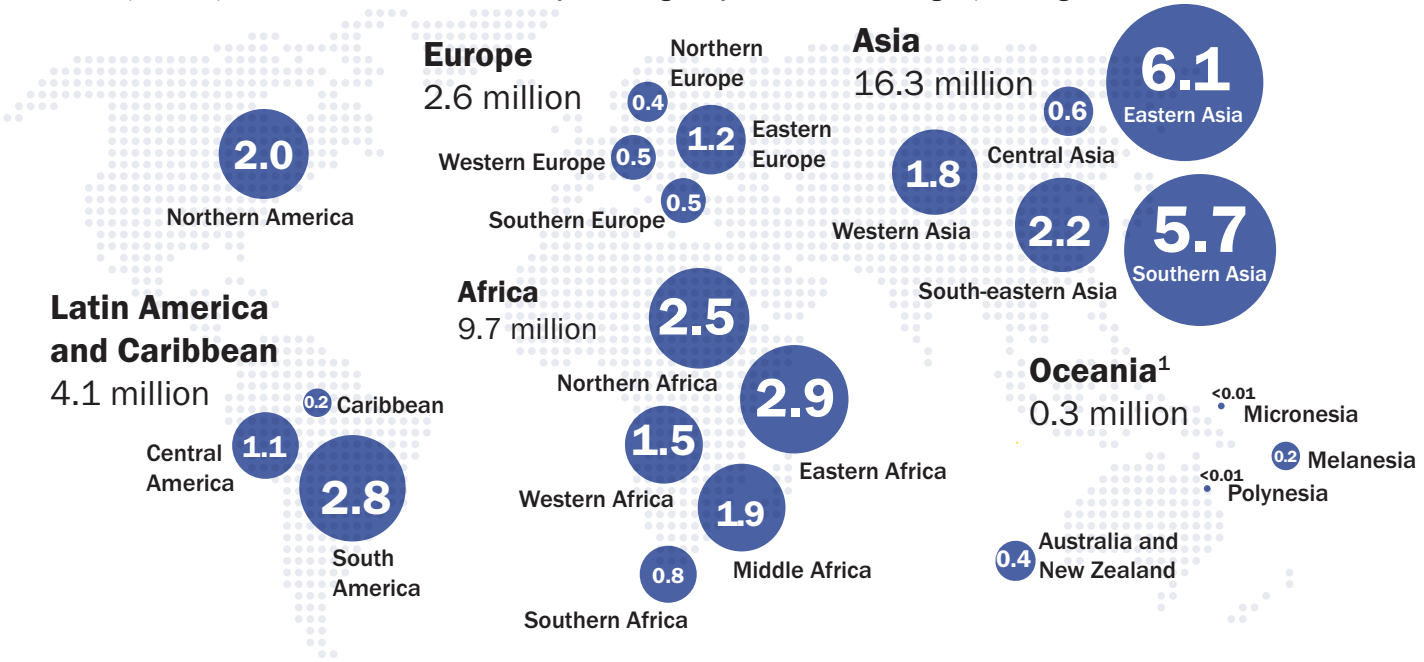
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. 1. Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand . †Represents regions/sub-regions where the change has been significant (Rosner, 2015). See page 16 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

NUMBERS AFFECTED

Global number affected 2024
35.5 M
Global number affected 2012
36.3 M

Most children with overweight live in Asia and Africa

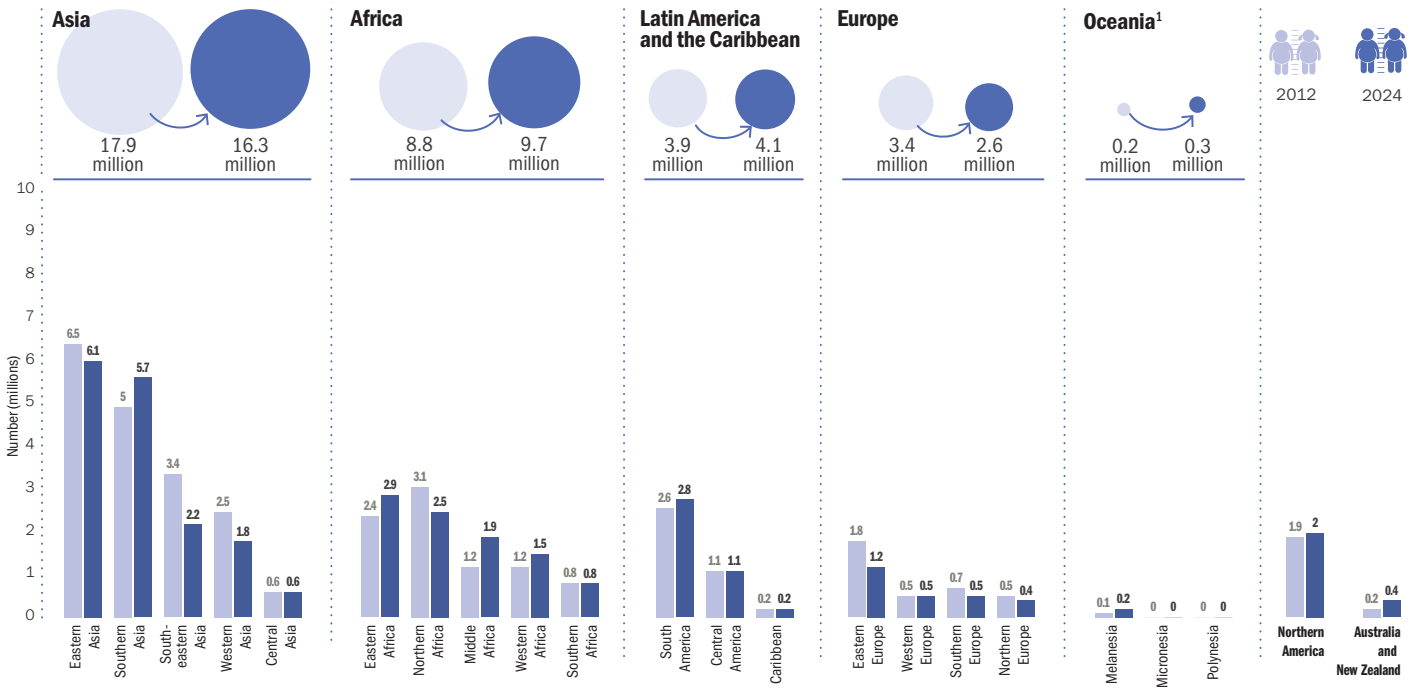
Number (millions) of children under 5 affected by overweight, by United Nations region/sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand. Aggregates may not add up due to rounding.

In eight sub-regions, there were more children living with overweight in 2024 than in 2012

Number (millions) of children under 5 with overweight, by United Nations region/sub-region, 2012 and 2024



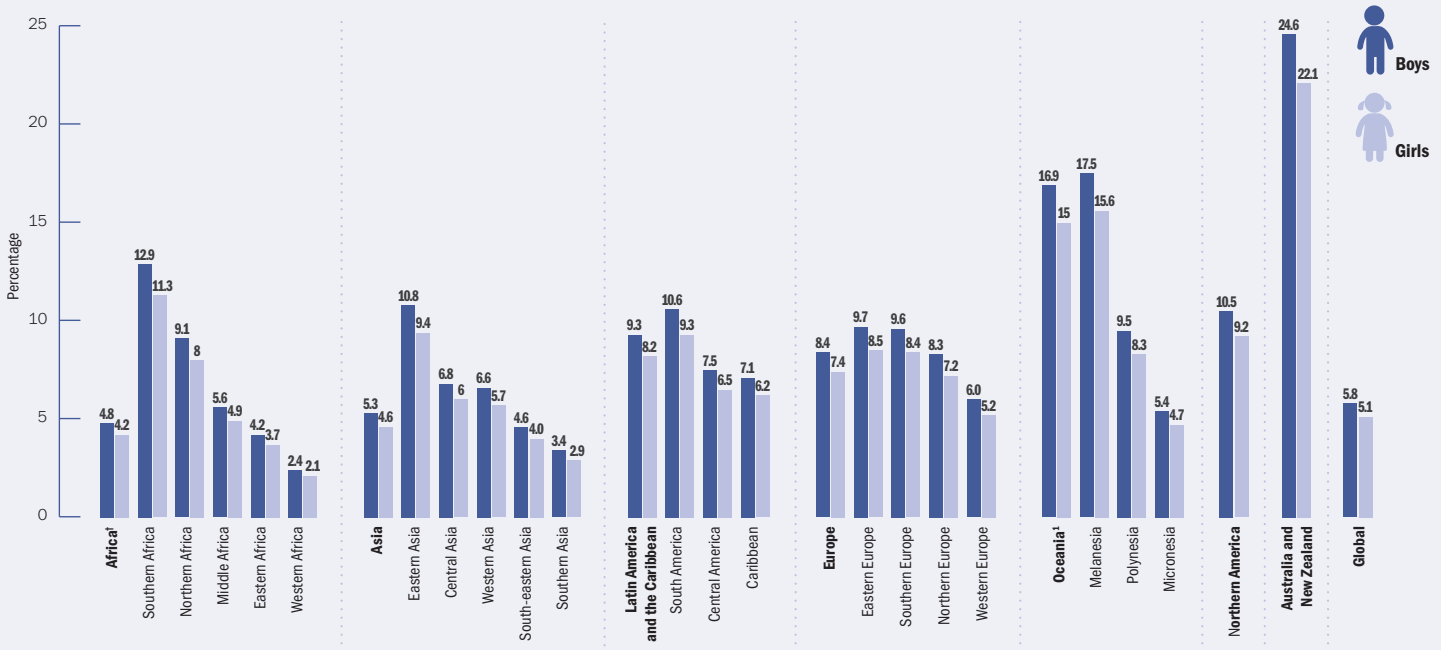
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1 Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand. See page 17 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

OVERWEIGHT

PREVALENCE DISAGGREGATED BY SEX

In all UN regions and sub-regions, overweight is more common in boys than girls, but the differences are insignificant

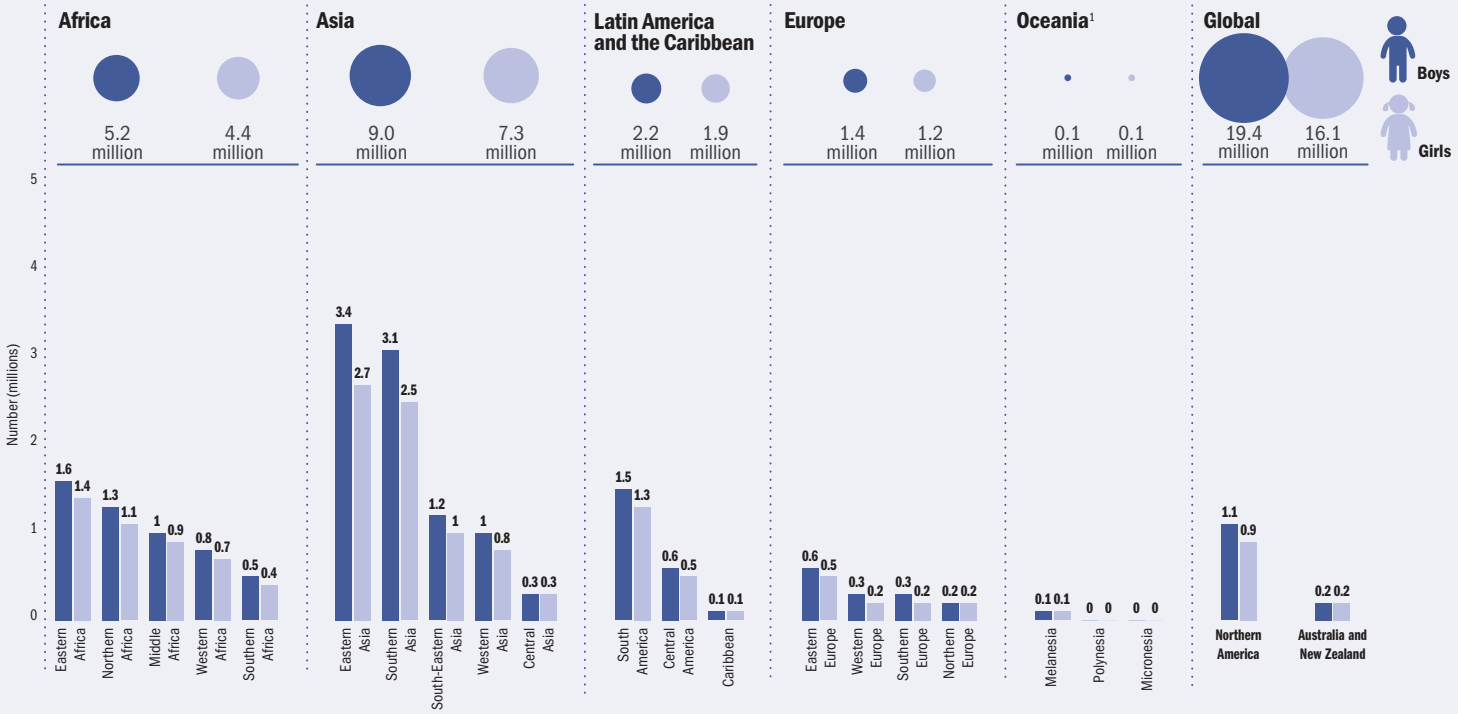
Percentage of children under 5 affected by overweight, by sex and UN region and sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand; †Represents significant difference between the estimates for girls and boys (Rosner, 2015). See page 18 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

Boys affected by overweight outnumber girls in all UN regions and sub-regions

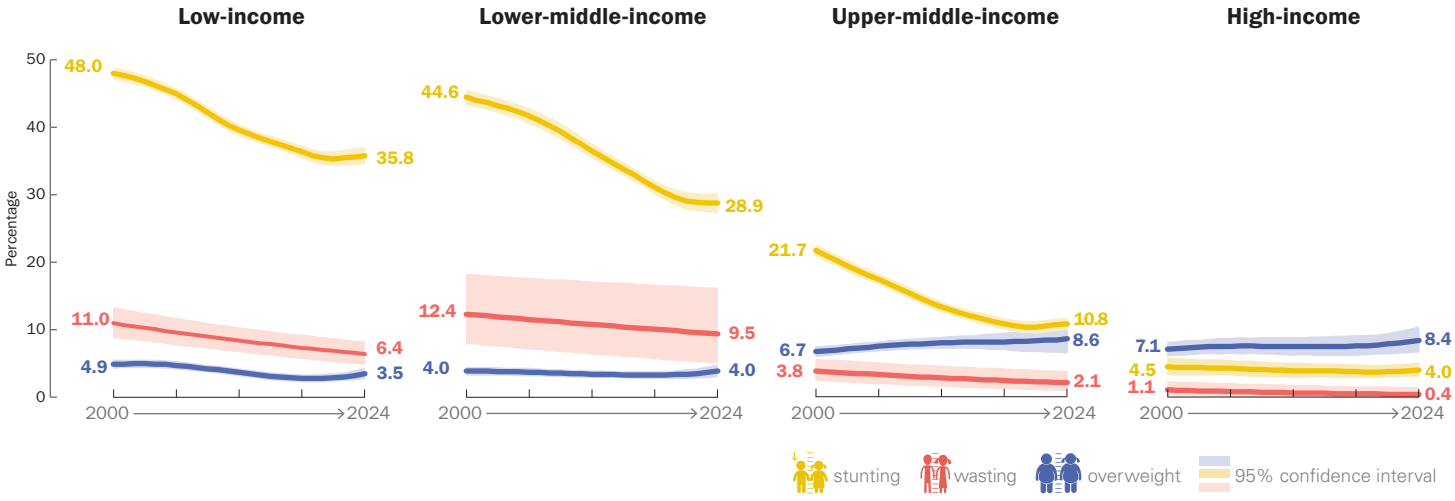
Number (millions) of children under 5 with overweight, by sex and United Nations region/sub-region, 2024



Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand; See page 19 for the 95% confidence intervals for graphed estimates.

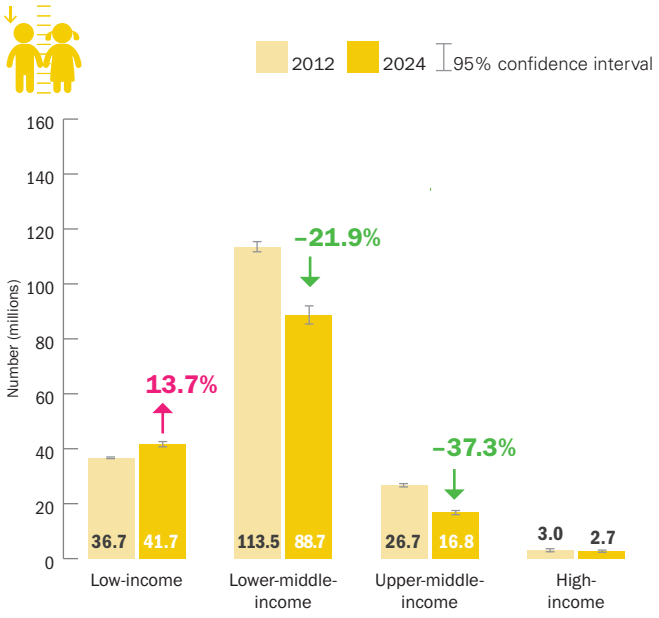
Since 2012, low-, lower-middle and upper-middle income countries have made significant progress in reducing stunting, but recent trends show these gains are slipping

Percentage of children under 5 affected by stunting, overweight and wasting, by country income classification, 2000–2024



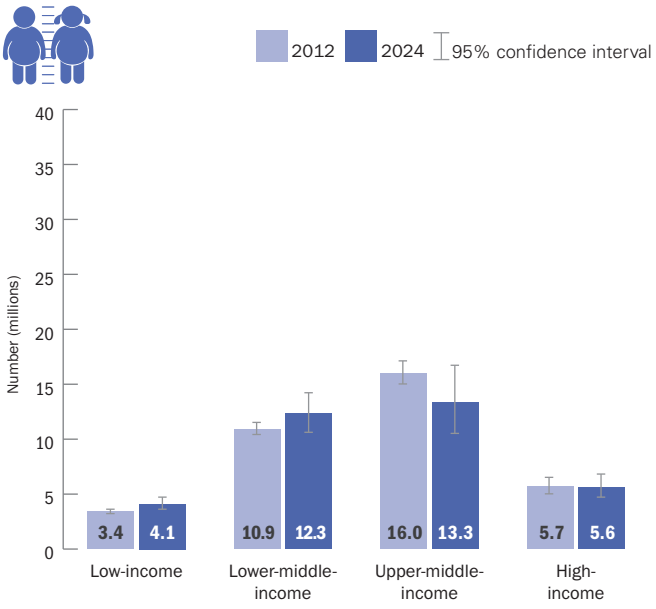
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition.

Lower- and upper-middle-income countries have the largest relative declines in the number of children with stunted growth of all income groups



Number of children under 5 affected by stunting, by country income classification, 2012 and 2024

There has been no progress to reduce the numbers of children affected by overweight or wasting* over the past 12 years in any income group



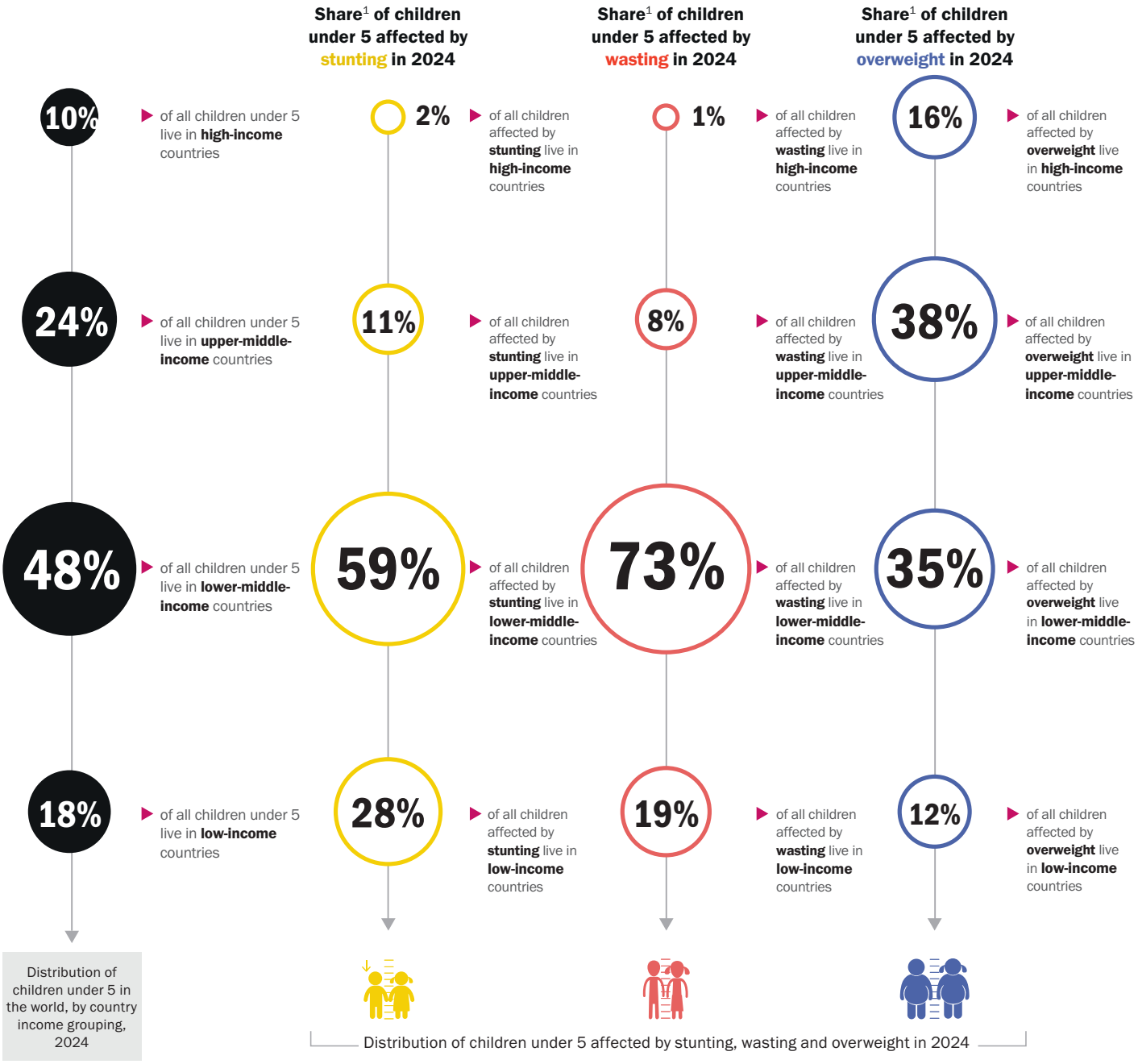
Number of children under 5 affected by overweight, by country income classification, 2012 and 2024

Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: The values for "percentage change since 2012" are based on calculations using unrounded estimates and therefore might not match values calculated using the rounded estimates presented in this report. * No significant differences were found between the numbers of children affected by wasting in 2012 compared to 2024 in any income group, thus the results are not presented in graph form. The estimates are available on page 17.

COUNTRY INCOME CLASSIFICATION

SHARE BY INCOME GROUP

While only about half of all children under 5 live in lower-middle income countries, these countries are home to almost two-thirds of children with stunting and three-quarters of children with wasting



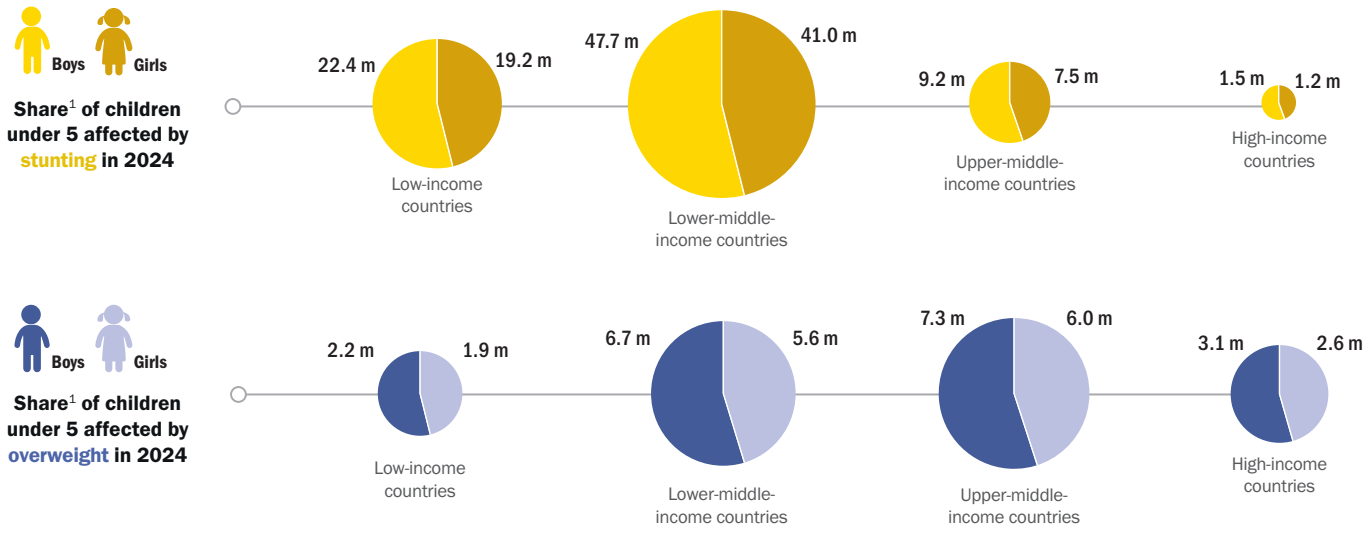
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: 1. Share is relative to the total number affected across the four country-income groups; this varies from the global totals reported elsewhere in this brochure because the official JME global total is based on a model of United Nations regions. The differences are as follows: Stunting official global estimate 150.2 million; sum of four country-income groups = 149.8 million. Wasting official global estimate 42.8 million; sum of country-income groups = 40.1 million. Overweight official global estimate 35.5 million; sum of 4 country-income groups = 35.3 million. The percentages for distribution of wasting and overweight do not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

COUNTRY INCOME CLASSIFICATION

ESTIMATES BY SEX AND INCOME GROUP

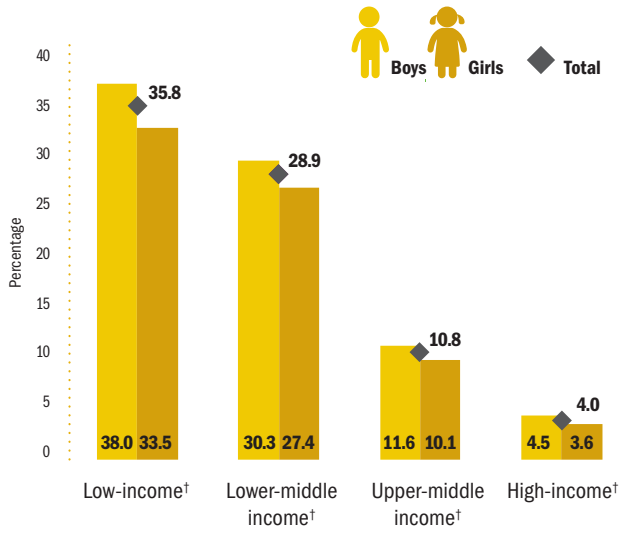
Stunting affects a significantly greater number of boys than girls. In contrast, the number of children affected by overweight shows no significant difference between boys and girls

Number (in millions) of children under 5 affected by stunting and overweight, by sex, in 2024



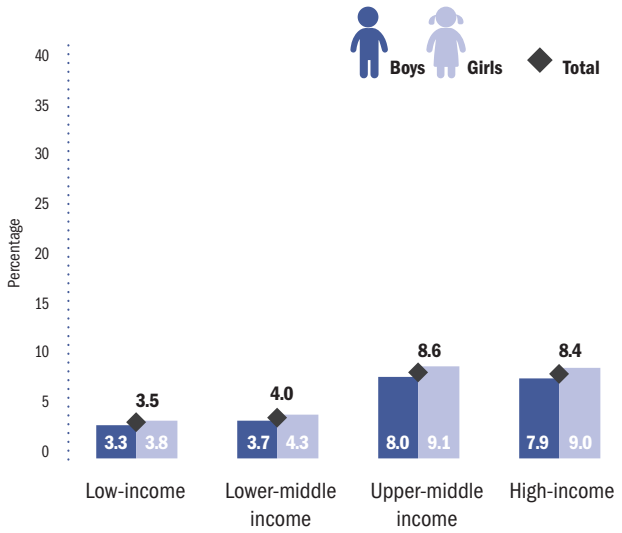
Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. 1. Share is relative to the total number affected across the four country-income groups; this varies from the global totals reported elsewhere in this brochure because the official JME global total is based on a model of United Nations regions. The total number of children affected by stunting and overweight from all income groups do not sum to the reported total due to rounding.

Boys are more affected by stunting than girls across all income groups



Percentage of children under 5 affected by stunting, by sex and World Bank Income Group, 2024

There are no significant differences in the percentage of girls and boys affected by overweight



Percentage of children under 5 affected by overweight, by sex and World Bank Income Group, 2024

Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition. Note: The values for "percentage change since 2012" are based on calculations using unrounded estimates and therefore might not match values calculated using the rounded estimates presented in this report. † Represents significant difference between the estimates for girls and boys (Rosner, 2015).

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TABLE

PREVALENCE ESTIMATES*

	Stunting (PERCENT)		Wasting (PERCENT)		Severe wasting (PERCENT)		Overweight (PERCENT)	
	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)	(severe)	(severe)	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)
	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024
Global	26.4 [26.1-26.7]	23.2 [22.6-23.8]	7.4 [6.3-8.7]	6.6 [5.3-8.1]	2.2 [1.7-2.8]	1.9 [1.4-2.5]	5.3 [5.1-5.5]	5.5 [4.9-6.1]
United Nations regions								
Africa	34.0 [33.7-34.3]	30.3 [29.7-30.9]	6.7 [5.9-7.6]	5.4 [4.7-6.3]	1.8 [1.6-2.1]	1.3 [1.0-1.5]	4.9 [4.7-5.0]	4.5 [4.1-5.0]
Eastern Africa	38.7 [38.3-39.1]	31.2 [30.2-32.2]	6.1 [4.7-8.0]	4.8 [3.4-6.7]	1.5 [1.1-1.9]	0.9 [0.6-1.3]	3.9 [3.8-4.1]	3.9 [3.4-4.6]
Middle Africa	37.8 [37.2-38.4]	40.1 [38.7-41.4]	7.0 [5.4-9.0]	5.5 [4.3-7.0]	2.3 [1.8-3.0]	1.6 [1.3-1.9]	4.7 [4.3-5.1]	5.2 [4.2-6.5]
Northern Africa	23.1 [22.4-23.8]	18.1 [16.1-20.4]	5.4 [3.3-8.8]	5.2 [2.7-9.7]	2.1 [1.3-3.2]	1.9 [1.0-3.7]	11.3 [10.5-12.2]	8.5 [6.9-10.5]
Southern Africa	23.2 [22.2-24.2]	24.1 [21.6-26.7]	3.8 [2.6-5.3]	3.0 [1.9-4.7]	1.2 [0.9-1.8]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]	12.3 [10.9-13.7]	12.1 [8.1-17.6]
Western Africa	33.8 [33.1-34.4]	29.7 [28.7-30.8]	8.2 [7.1-9.4]	6.5 [5.6-7.6]	1.9 [1.6-2.3]	1.3 [1.1-1.5]	2.1 [1.9-2.3]	2.2 [1.9-2.6]
Asia	28.4 [27.8-28.9]	23.3 [22.3-24.5]	9.7 [7.8-12.0]	9.1 [6.8-12.2]	2.9 [2.1-4.0]	2.8 [1.9-4.1]	4.7 [4.4-5.0]	5.0 [3.9-6.2]
Central Asia	14.8 [14.3-15.4]	7.4 [6.9-8.0]	3.8 [3.0-4.7]	2.1 [1.3-3.3]	1.3 [1.0-1.6]	0.6 [0.3-1.1]	7.7 [7.0-8.4]	6.4 [5.0-8.1]
Eastern Asia	7.6 [7.1-8.0]	4.8 [3.9-6.0]	2.1 [1.9-2.3]	1.4 [1.3-1.6]	0.5 [0.4-0.6]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]	6.5 [5.7-7.5]	10.1 [6.2-16.3]
Southern Asia	30.4 [29.9-30.9]	22.7 [22.1-23.4]	8.1 [6.7-9.8]	7.0 [5.4-9.1]	2.1 [1.6-2.6]	1.8 [1.2-2.7]	5.9 [5.5-6.3]	4.3 [3.8-4.9]
South-eastern Asia	40.2 [39.3-41.2]	31.4 [29.7-33.2]	15.1 [11.3-19.8]	13.6 [9.3-19.4]	4.8 [3.2-7.0]	4.4 [2.8-6.8]	2.6 [2.3-2.9]	3.2 [2.3-4.3]
Western Asia	20.0 [19.6-20.5]	18.0 [17.0-19.1]	4.2 [2.1-8.5]	3.5 [1.5-8.0]	1.3 [0.6-2.7]	0.9 [0.4-1.8]	9.1 [8.4-9.9]	6.2 [5.0-7.6]
Europe	4.7 [3.4-6.3]	3.6 [2.7-4.8]	-	-	-	-	8.4 [6.7-10.5]	7.9 [5.7-10.8]
Eastern Europe	6.8 [4.4-10.4]	4.6 [2.8-7.7]	-	-	-	-	10.7 [8.3-13.7]	9.1 [5.2-15.5]
Northern Europe	2.7 [2.4-3.1]	3.0 [2.6-3.5]	-	-	-	-	7.4 [6.2-8.9]	7.8 [5.7-10.5]
Southern Europe	4.2 [2.7-6.5]	3.6 [2.3-5.4]	-	-	-	-	8.6 [4.9-14.7]	9.0 [4.9-16.1]
Western Europe	2.6 [1.5-4.4]	2.5 [1.6-3.9]	-	-	-	-	5.1 [2.6-10.0]	5.6 [2.7-11.3]
Latin America and Caribbean	12.8 [12.5-13.1]	12.4 [11.8-13.0]	1.6 [1.2-2.1]	1.3 [0.9-1.9]	0.4 [0.3-0.5]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]	7.3 [6.9-7.9]	8.8 [7.4-10.3]
Caribbean	12.9 [12.3-13.4]	12.2 [11.4-13.1]	3.1 [2.2-4.4]	2.9 [2.2-3.7]	0.8 [0.6-1.2]	0.8 [0.6-0.9]	6.4 [5.5-7.6]	6.7 [5.4-8.3]
Central America	18.1 [17.6-18.7]	17.2 [16.4-18.1]	1.4 [1.2-1.6]	0.9 [0.7-1.2]	0.3 [0.3-0.4]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]	6.5 [6.0-7.1]	7.0 [5.9-8.4]
South America	10.1 [9.8-10.5]	9.9 [9.0-10.8]	1.5 [1.0-2.5]	1.3 [0.7-2.4]	0.4 [0.2-0.5]	0.2 [0.1-0.5]	7.8 [7.1-8.6]	9.9 [8.0-12.3]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	40.6 [38.8-42.5]	41.5 [35.0-48.3]	7.4 [5.5-9.8]	8.4 [5.3-13.1]	2.4 [1.6-3.5]	3.2 [1.7-6.0]	10.3 [8.3-12.6]	16.0 [8.6-27.7]
Melanesia	43.0 [41.1-45.0]	43.6 [36.9-50.5]	-	-	-	-	10.6 [8.5-13.1]	16.6 [8.9-28.7]
Micronesia	16.3 [13.0-20.2]	13.6 [10.6-17.2]	-	-	-	-	4.5 [2.4-8.6]	5.1 [2.4-10.3]
Polynesia	7.1 [5.7-8.9]	7.0 [5.7-8.5]	-	-	-	-	8.2 [6.9-9.8]	8.9 [6.5-12.0]
Australia and New Zealand	3.5 [2.7-4.6]	3.1 [1.7-5.5]	0.3 [2]	0.5 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	12.4 [10.0-15.1]	23.4 [16.1-32.7]
Northern America	2.6 [2.3-2.9]	4.1 [3.5-4.8]	0.3 [0.2-0.5]	0.2 [0.0-0.5]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	8.5 [7.6-9.4]	9.8 [7.6-12.7]
SDG regions								
Australia and New Zealand	3.5 [2.7-4.6]	3.1 [1.7-5.5]	0.3 [2]	0.5 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	12.4 [10.0-15.1]	23.4 [16.1-32.7]
Central Asia and Southern Asia	39.3 [38.4-40.2]	30.2 [28.5-31.9]	14.7 [11.1-19.1]	13.0 [9.0-18.5]	4.7 [3.1-6.8]	4.2 [2.7-6.5]	2.8 [2.5-3.1]	3.3 [2.5-4.4]
Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia	16.0 [15.7-16.4]	13.1 [12.5-13.7]	4.3 [3.8-4.9]	4.0 [3.2-4.9]	1.1 [0.9-1.3]	1.0 [0.7-1.4]	6.3 [5.7-6.9]	7.5 [5.1-10.8]
Latin America and the Caribbean	12.8 [12.5-13.1]	12.4 [11.8-13.0]	1.6 [1.2-2.1]	1.3 [0.9-1.9]	0.4 [0.3-0.5]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]	7.3 [6.9-7.9]	8.8 [7.4-10.3]
Northern America and Europe	3.9 [3.1-5.0]	3.8 [3.1-4.6]	-	-	-	-	8.4 [7.3-9.8]	8.6 [6.9-10.8]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	40.6 [38.8-42.5]	41.5 [35.0-48.3]	7.4 [5.5-9.8]	8.4 [5.3-13.1]	2.4 [1.6-3.5]	3.2 [1.7-6.0]	10.3 [8.3-12.6]	16.0 [8.6-27.7]
Sub-Saharan Africa	36.0 [35.7-36.3]	32.2 [31.5-32.8]	6.9 [6.1-7.8]	5.5 [4.7-6.3]	1.8 [1.6-2.0]	1.1 [1.0-1.3]	3.7 [3.6-3.9]	3.9 [3.5-4.3]
Western Asia and Northern Africa	21.5 [21.1-22.0]	18.1 [17.0-19.3]	4.8 [3.1-7.4]	4.4 [2.6-7.3]	1.7 [1.2-2.5]	1.4 [0.9-2.4]	10.2 [9.6-10.8]	7.4 [6.3-8.5]
UNICEF regions								
East Asia and Pacific	16.2 [15.9-16.5]	13.4 [12.8-14.0]	3.9 [2.9-5.3]	3.5 [2.4-5.2]	1.0 [0.7-1.4]	0.9 [0.6-1.5]	6.4 [5.8-7.0]	7.8 [5.5-11.1]
Europe and Central Asia	6.8 [5.8-7.9]	4.6 [3.9-5.4]	1.5 [1.1-2.2] [1]	1.0 [0.7-1.4] [1]	0.4 [0.3-0.6] [1]	0.3 [0.2-0.4] [1]	8.6 [7.3-10.1]	7.5 [5.9-9.6]
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	10.2 [8.6-12.2]	6.2 [5.0-7.6]	2.6 [1.7-4.0] [1]	1.6 [1.1-2.4] [1]	0.8 [0.5-1.3] [1]	0.5 [0.4-0.7] [1]	10.5 [9.1-12.2]	7.9 [5.6-11.1]
Western Europe	2.8 [2.1-3.8]	2.7 [2.1-3.4]	0.7 [0.5-1.0]	0.5 [0.3-0.7]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	6.4 [4.6-9.0]	7.0 [5.0-9.9]
Latin America and Caribbean	12.8 [12.5-13.1]	12.4 [11.8-13.0]	1.6 [1.2-2.1]	1.3 [0.9-1.9]	0.4 [0.3-0.5]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]	7.3 [6.8-7.9]	8.8 [7.4-10.4]
Middle East and North Africa	19.3 [18.8-19.7]	15.5 [14.7-16.2]	5.3 [4.1-6.9]	5.0 [3.5-7.2]	1.8 [1.3-2.5]	1.6 [0.9-2.8]	10.3 [9.7-11.0]	7.5 [6.4-8.9]
North America	2.6 [2.2-3.0]	4.1 [3.5-4.8]	0.3 [0.2-0.5]	0.2 [0.0-0.5]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	8.5 [7.6-9.4]	9.8 [7.6-12.7]
South Asia	41.5 [40.6-42.4]	32.3 [30.5-34.1]	15.7 [12.3-19.7]	14.1 [10.1-19.4]	4.9 [3.4-7.0]	4.5 [3.0-6.9]	2.5 [2.3-2.8]	3.2 [2.3-4.3]
Sub-Saharan Africa	36.0 [35.7-36.3]	32.3 [31.7-32.9]	7.5 [6.6-8.5]	5.9 [5.1-6.8]	2.0 [1.7-2.3]	1.3 [1.1-1.5]	3.7 [3.5-3.8]	3.8 [3.5-4.3]
East and Southern Africa	36.7 [36.4-37.1]	32.1 [31.1-33.1]	6.1 [4.7-8.1]	4.9 [3.5-6.8]	1.6 [1.2-2.2]	1.0 [0.7-1.4]	4.5 [4.3-4.7]	4.5 [3.9-5.2]
West and Central Africa	35.2 [34.7-35.7]	32.5 [31.7-33.3]	8.8 [8.1-9.6]	6.9 [6.4-7.5]	2.3 [2.1-2.7]	1.5 [1.4-1.7]	2.9 [2.7-3.0]	3.2 [2.8-3.7]
WHO regions								
African Region	35.4 [35.1-35.7]	31.7 [31.1-32.4]	7.1 [6.0-8.4]	5.6 [4.7-6.6]	1.9 [1.6-2.3]	1.3 [1.0-1.5]	4.0 [3.9-4.2]	4.2 [3.8-4.6]
Region of the Americas	9.8 [9.5-10.0]	9.9 [9.4-10.3]	1.0 [0.4-2.3]	0.7 [0.2-1.8]	0.2 [0.0-0.6]	0.1 [0.0-0.4]	7.7 [7.2-8.1]	9.1 [7.9-10.4]
South-East Asia Region	39.1 [38.2-40.1]	29.7 [27.9-31.5]	15.0 [11.2-19.9]	13.9 [9.8-19.2]	4.5 [2.8-7.2]	4.3 [2.6-6.9]	3.0 [2.8-3.3]	3.3 [2.4-4.5]
Eastern Mediterranean Region	31.3 [30.8-31.9]	26.0 [24.4-27.6]	7.6 [5.7-10.1]	6.3 [4.9-8.1]	2.6 [1.9-3.5]	2.2 [1.5-3.2]	7.1 [6.7-7.5]	4.5 [3.9-5.3]
Europe Region	6.7 [5.8-7.8]	4.6 [3.9-5.4]	1.7 [1.1-2.5]	1.0 [0.7-1.6]	0.4 [0.3-0.7]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]	8.6 [7.3-10.0]	7.5 [5.9-9.5]
Western Pacific Region	12.0 [11.6-12.3]	10.2 [9.4-11.0]	2.6 [1.8-3.6]	1.9 [1.2-2.9]	0.6 [0.5-0.9]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]	6.2 [5.5-6.9]	9.7 [6.6-14.0]
World Bank income regions								
Low-income	39.6 [39.2-39.9]	35.8 [35.0-36.6]	8.4 [7.1-10.0]	6.4 [5.2-7.9]	2.3 [1.9-2.9]	1.4 [1.1-1.8]	3.7 [3.5-3.9]	3.5 [3.1-4.0]
Middle-income	27.4 [27.0-27.9]	22.8 [22.1-23.6]	7.7 [5.2-11.3]	7.0 [4.3-11.3]	2.3 [1.4-3.7]	2.0 [1.1-3.6]	5.3 [5.1-5.5]	5.5 [4.8-6.4]
Lower-middle-income	36.6 [36.0-37.2]	28.9 [27.8-30.0]	10.9 [6.8-16.9]	9.5 [5.5-16.0]	3.2 [1.8-5.6]	2.7 [1.4-5.3]	3.5 [3.3-3.7]	4.0 [3.5-4.6]
Upper middle-income	13.3 [13.0-13.6]	10.8 [10.4-11.3]	2.8 [1.9-4.2]	2.1 [1.2-3.4]	0.8 [0.5-1.2]	0.5 [0.3-1.0]	8.0 [7.5-8.5]	8.6 [6.8-10.8]
High-income	3.9 [3.2-4.7]	4.0 [3.4-4.7]	0.6 [0.3-1.4]	0.4 [0.1-1.1]	0.1 [0.0-0.3]	0.1 [0.0-0.2]	7.5 [6.5-8.5]	8.4 [7.0-10.1]

Notes: 1. Excluding the Russian Federation; 2. For wasting and severe wasting, the estimates were derived applying mixed-effect models with sub-regions as fixed effects (de Onis et al. 2004). Data were available only for Australia, preventing the estimation of confidence intervals. Model selection is based on best fit.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TABLE

NUMBERS (MILLIONS) AFFECTED*

	Stunting (NUMBERS)		Wasting (NUMBERS)		Severe wasting (NUMBERS)		Overweight (NUMBERS)	
	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)	(severe)	(severe)	(moderate & severe)	(moderate & severe)
	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024
Global	**180.4 [178.1-182.8]**	**150.2 [146.4-154.0]**	**50.9 [43.4-59.6]**	**42.8 [34.6-52.6]**	**15.0 [11.7-19.0]**	**12.2 [9.1-16.3]**	**36.3 [34.8-37.8]**	**35.5 [31.7-39.7]**
United Nations regions								
Africa	61.7 [61.2-62.2]	64.8 [63.5-66.1]	12.2 [10.8-13.8]	11.7 [10.0-13.5]	3.3 [2.9-3.8]	2.7 [2.2-3.2]	8.8 [8.5-9.2]	9.7 [8.8-10.6]
Eastern Africa	23.9 [23.6-24.1]	23.3 [22.6-24.0]	3.8 [2.9-4.9]	3.6 [2.5-5.0]	0.9 [0.7-1.2]	0.7 [0.5-1.0]	2.4 [2.3-2.6]	2.9 [2.5-3.4]
Middle Africa	10.0 [9.9-10.2]	14.7 [14.3-15.2]	1.9 [1.4-2.4]	2.0 [1.6-2.6]	0.6 [0.5-0.8]	0.6 [0.5-0.7]	1.2 [1.1-1.3]	1.9 [1.5-2.4]
Northern Africa	6.3 [6.1-6.5]	5.2 [4.6-5.9]	1.5 [0.9-2.4]	1.5 [0.8-2.8]	0.6 [0.4-0.9]	0.6 [0.3-1.1]	3.1 [2.9-3.3]	2.5 [2.0-3.0]
Southern Africa	1.5 [1.5-1.6]	1.7 [1.5-1.9]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.8 [0.7-0.9]	0.8 [0.6-1.2]
Western Africa	19.9 [19.6-20.3]	19.9 [19.2-20.6]	4.8 [4.2-5.5]	4.4 [3.7-5.1]	1.1 [1.0-1.4]	0.8 [0.7-1.0]	1.2 [1.1-1.3]	1.5 [1.3-1.7]
Asia	108.8 [106.7-110.9]	76.8 [73.3-80.4]	37.1 [29.8-45.8]	30.0 [22.2-40.1]	11.3 [8.2-15.5]	9.3 [6.3-13.6]	17.9 [16.9-19.0]	16.3 [13.0-20.5]
Central Asia	1.1 [1.1-1.1]	0.7 [0.7-0.8]	0.3 [0.2-0.3]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.6 [0.5-0.6]	0.6 [0.5-0.8]
Eastern Asia	7.5 [7.1-8.0]	2.9 [2.4-3.6]	2.1 [1.9-2.3]	0.9 [0.8-0.9]	0.5 [0.4-0.6]	0.2 [0.1-0.2]	6.5 [5.6-7.4]	6.1 [3.7-9.8]
Southern Asia	17.7 [17.4-18.0]	11.6 [11.3-12.0]	4.7 [3.9-5.7]	3.6 [2.7-4.6]	1.2 [0.9-1.5]	0.9 [0.6-1.4]	3.4 [3.2-3.7]	2.2 [2.0-2.5]
South-eastern Asia	77.0 [75.2-78.7]	56.4 [53.3-59.5]	28.8 [21.6-37.9]	24.4 [16.7-34.9]	9.1 [6.2-13.4]	7.9 [5.0-12.2]	5.0 [4.5-5.5]	5.7 [4.1-7.8]
Western Asia	5.4 [5.3-5.6]	5.1 [4.9-5.4]	1.2 [0.6-2.3]	1.0 [0.4-2.3]	0.4 [0.2-0.7]	0.3 [0.1-0.5]	2.5 [2.3-2.7]	1.8 [1.4-2.2]
Europe	1.9 [1.4-2.5]	1.2 [0.9-1.6]	-	-	-	-	3.4 [2.7-4.2]	2.6 [1.9-3.6]
Eastern Europe	1.1 [0.7-1.7]	0.6 [0.4-1.0]	-	-	-	-	1.8 [1.4-2.3]	1.2 [0.7-2.0]
Northern Europe	0.2 [0.1-0.2]	0.2 [0.1-0.2]	-	-	-	-	0.5 [0.4-0.6]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]
Southern Europe	0.3 [0.2-0.5]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]	-	-	-	-	0.7 [0.4-1.1]	0.5 [0.3-0.9]
Western Europe	0.2 [0.1-0.4]	0.2 [0.2-0.4]	-	-	-	-	0.5 [0.2-1.0]	0.5 [0.3-1.1]
Latin America and Caribbean	6.8 [6.6-6.9]	5.8 [5.5-6.1]	0.9 [0.6-1.1]	0.6 [0.4-0.9]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	3.9 [3.6-4.2]	4.1 [3.5-4.8]
Caribbean	0.5 [0.4-0.5]	0.4 [0.4-0.4]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]
Central America	3.0 [2.9-3.1]	2.6 [2.5-2.7]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	1.1 [1.0-1.2]	1.1 [0.9-1.3]
South America	3.3 [3.2-3.5]	2.8 [2.6-3.1]	0.5 [0.3-0.8]	0.4 [0.2-0.7]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	2.6 [2.3-2.8]	2.8 [2.3-3.5]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	0.6 [0.6-0.6]	0.7 [0.6-0.8]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.2 [0.1-0.2]	0.3 [0.1-0.4]
Melanesia	0.6 [0.6-0.6]	0.6 [0.5-0.7]	-	-	-	-	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.2 [0.1-0.4]
Micronesia	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	-	-	-	-	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]
Polynesia	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	-	-	-	-	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]
Australia and New Zealand	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]
Northern America	0.6 [0.5-0.7]	0.8 [0.7-1.0]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	1.9 [1.7-2.1]	2.0 [1.5-2.6]
SDG regions								
Australia and New Zealand	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.0 [2]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]
Central Asia and Southern Asia	78.1 [76.3-79.8]	57.1 [53.9-60.3]	29.1 [22.1-37.9]	24.6 [17.0-34.9]	9.2 [6.2-13.6]	7.9 [5.0-12.3]	5.5 [5.1-6.1]	6.3 [4.7-8.4]
Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia	25.3 [24.7-25.8]	14.6 [13.9-15.3]	6.8 [5.9-7.8]	4.4 [3.6-5.5]	1.7 [1.4-2.0]	1.1 [0.8-1.5]	9.9 [9.0-10.9]	8.3 [5.7-12.1]
Latin America and the Caribbean	6.8 [6.6-6.9]	5.8 [5.5-6.1]	0.9 [0.6-1.1]	0.6 [0.4-0.9]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	3.9 [3.6-4.2]	4.1 [3.5-4.8]
Northern America and Europe	2.5 [1.9-3.1]	2.0 [1.7-2.5]	-	-	-	-	5.3 [4.6-6.1]	4.7 [3.7-5.8]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	0.6 [0.6-0.6]	0.7 [0.6-0.8]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.2 [0.1-0.2]	0.3 [0.1-0.4]
Sub-Saharan Africa	55.4 [54.9-55.9]	59.6 [58.4-60.8]	10.7 [9.5-12.1]	10.2 [8.8-11.7]	2.8 [2.4-3.1]	2.1 [1.8-2.5]	5.7 [5.5-5.9]	7.2 [6.5-8.0]
Western Asia and Northern Africa	11.7 [11.5-12.0]	10.4 [9.7-11.0]	2.6 [1.7-4.0]	2.5 [1.5-4.2]	0.9 [0.6-1.4]	0.8 [0.5-1.4]	5.6 [5.3-5.9]	4.2 [3.6-4.9]
UNICEF regions								
East Asia and Pacific	25.8 [25.3-26.4]	15.2 [14.5-15.9]	6.2 [4.6-8.4]	4.0 [2.8-5.9]	1.5 [1.1-2.2]	1.0 [0.7-1.7]	10.2 [9.3-11.2]	8.9 [6.3-12.6]
Europe and Central Asia	3.7 [3.2-4.4]	2.3 [1.9-2.7]	0.7 [0.5-1.0] [1]	0.4 [0.3-0.6] [1]	0.2 [0.1-0.3] [1]	0.1 [0.1-0.2] [1]	4.7 [4.0-5.6]	3.7 [2.9-4.8]
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	3.0 [2.5-3.6]	1.7 [1.4-2.0]	0.5 [0.4-0.8] [1]	0.3 [0.2-0.5] [1]	0.2 [0.1-0.3] [1]	0.1 [0.1-0.1] [1]	3.1 [2.7-3.6]	2.1 [1.5-3.0]
Western Europe	0.7 [0.5-1.0]	0.6 [0.5-0.8]	0.2 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	1.7 [1.2-2.3]	1.6 [1.1-2.2]
Latin America and Caribbean	6.7 [6.6-6.9]	5.8 [5.5-6.1]	0.9 [0.6-1.1]	0.6 [0.4-0.9]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	3.9 [3.6-4.1]	4.1 [3.4-4.8]
Middle East and North Africa	9.1 [8.9-9.3]	7.6 [7.2-7.9]	2.5 [1.9-3.3]	2.5 [1.7-3.5]	0.9 [0.6-1.2]	0.8 [0.5-1.4]	4.9 [4.6-5.2]	3.7 [3.1-4.3]
North America	0.6 [0.5-0.7]	0.8 [0.7-1.0]	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	1.9 [1.7-2.1]	2.0 [1.5-2.6]
South Asia	76.6 [75.0-78.3]	56.1 [53.0-59.2]	28.9 [22.8-36.3]	24.5 [17.6-33.6]	9.1 [6.3-13.0]	7.9 [5.1-11.9]	4.7 [4.2-5.2]	5.5 [4.0-7.5]
Sub-Saharan Africa	57.6 [57.1-58.1]	62.3 [61.1-63.5]	12.0 [10.6-13.5]	11.4 [9.9-13.1]	3.2 [2.8-3.6]	2.5 [2.2-2.9]	5.9 [5.7-6.1]	7.4 [6.7-8.3]
East and Southern Africa	29.1 [28.8-29.3]	30.7 [29.7-31.6]	4.9 [3.7-6.4]	4.7 [3.4-6.5]	1.3 [1.0-1.7]	1.0 [0.7-1.4]	3.6 [3.4-3.7]	4.3 [3.7-5.0]
West and Central Africa	28.5 [28.1-28.9]	31.6 [30.8-32.4]	7.1 [6.5-7.8]	6.7 [6.2-7.3]	1.9 [1.7-2.2]	1.5 [1.4-1.7]	2.3 [2.2-2.5]	3.1 [2.7-3.6]
WHO regions								
African Region	55.2 [54.7-55.6]	59.1 [58.0-60.3]	11.0 [9.3-13.1]	10.4 [8.7-12.3]	3.0 [2.5-3.6]	2.3 [1.9-2.8]	6.2 [6.0-6.5]	7.7 [7.0-8.6]
Region of the Americas	7.3 [7.2-7.5]	6.6 [6.3-6.9]	0.8 [0.3-1.7]	0.4 [0.2-1.2]	0.1 [0.0-0.5]	0.1 [0.0-0.3]	5.8 [5.4-6.1]	6.1 [5.3-7.0]
South-East Asia Region	71.9 [70.2-73.6]	49.3 [46.4-52.4]	27.6 [20.6-36.5]	23.1 [16.3-32.0]	8.3 [5.2-13.2]	7.1 [4.3-11.5]	5.5 [5.1-6.1]	5.5 [4.0-7.5]
Eastern Mediterranean Region	27.1 [26.7-27.6]	24.3 [22.8-25.8]	6.6 [4.9-8.8]	5.9 [4.6-7.6]	2.2 [1.6-3.1]	2.1 [1.4-3.0]	6.1 [5.8-6.5]	4.2 [3.6-5.0]
Europe Region	3.8 [3.2-4.4]	2.3 [1.9-2.7]	0.9 [0.6-1.4]	0.5 [0.4-0.8]	0.2 [0.1-0.4]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	4.8 [4.1-5.6]	3.8 [3.0-4.8]
Western Pacific Region	15.0 [14.5-15.4]	8.4 [7.8-9.1]	3.2 [2.3-4.5]	1.5 [1.0-2.4]	0.8 [0.6-1.1]	0.3 [0.2-0.5]	7.7 [6.9-8.7]	8.0 [5.4-11.5]
World Bank income regions								
Low-income	36.7 [36.4-37.0]	41.7 [40.7-42.6]	7.8 [6.5-9.3]	7.5 [6.0-9.2]	2.2 [1.8-2.7]	1.6 [1.3-2.1]	3.4 [3.2-3.6]	4.1 [3.6-4.7]
Middle-income	140.3 [138.1-142.5]	105.5 [101.9-109.2]	39.4 [26.5-57.9]	32.4 [19.8-52.0]	11.5 [7.0-18.8]	9.2 [5.0-16.6]	27.0 [25.8-28.1]	25.6 [22.1-29.6]
Lower-middle-income	113.5 [111.7-115.4]	88.7 [85.4-92.0]	33.8 [21.2-52.4]	29.2 [16.9-49.0]	10.0 [5.6-17.5]	8.4 [4.2-16.2]	10.9 [10.4-11.5]	12.3 [10.6-14.2]
Upper middle-income	26.7 [26.1-27.3]	16.8 [16.0-17.5]	5.6 [3.7-8.5]	3.2 [1.9-5.3]	1.5 [1.0-2.5]	0.8 [0.4-1.6]	16.0 [15.0-17.1]	13.3 [10.5-16.7]
High-income	3.0 [2.5-3.6]	2.7 [2.3-3.1]	0.5 [0.2-1.1]	0.3 [0.1-0.7]	0.1 [0.0-0.2]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	5.7 [5.0-6.5]	5.6 [4.7-6.8]

Notes: 1. Excluding the Russian Federation; 2. For wasting and severe wasting, the estimates were derived applying mixed-effect models with sub-regions as fixed effects (de Onis et al. 2004). Data were available only for Australia, preventing the estimation of confidence intervals. Model selection is based on best fit. The numbers affected do not always sum to the reported total due to rounding. *Complete data series for stunting, wasting, severe wasting and overweight (2000 to 2024) of prevalence and numbers affected can be found at the websites listed on page 22 for global as well as for the following groupings: (i) United Nations regions and sub-regions; (ii) UNICEF regions; (iii) WHO regions; (iv) World Bank country income classifications; (v) World Bank regions; (vi) SDG regions; and (vii) the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) low-income food deficient countries classification.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TABLE

PREVALENCE ESTIMATES, BY SEX*

	Stunting (PERCENT)			Overweight (PERCENT)		
	Total (moderate & severe)	Boys (moderate & severe)	Girls (moderate & severe)	Total (moderate & severe)	Boys (moderate & severe)	Girls (moderate & severe)
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Global	23.2 [22.6-23.8]	24.4 [23.8-25.1]	21.9 [21.3-22.5]	5.5 [4.9-6.1]	5.8 [5.2-6.5]	5.1 [4.6-5.7]
United Nations regions						
Africa	30.3 [29.7-30.9]	32.5 [31.9-33.1]	28.0 [27.4-28.6]	4.5 [4.1-5.0]	4.8 [4.4-5.3]	4.2 [3.8-4.6]
Eastern Africa	31.2 [30.2-32.2]	33.7 [32.7-34.7]	28.6 [27.6-29.6]	3.9 [3.4-4.6]	4.2 [3.7-4.9]	3.7 [3.2-4.2]
Middle Africa	40.1 [38.7-41.4]	42.8 [41.5-44.1]	37.3 [35.9-38.7]	5.2 [4.2-6.5]	5.6 [4.6-6.8]	4.9 [4.0-6.0]
Northern Africa	18.1 [16.1-20.4]	18.9 [17.0-21.0]	17.3 [15.4-19.5]	8.5 [6.9-10.5]	9.1 [7.4-11.2]	8.0 [6.4-9.8]
Southern Africa	24.1 [21.6-26.7]	26.7 [24.0-29.6]	21.4 [18.9-24.2]	12.1 [8.1-17.6]	12.9 [8.6-18.7]	11.3 [7.6-16.6]
Western Africa	29.7 [28.7-30.8]	32.0 [31.0-33.0]	27.4 [26.5-28.4]	2.2 [1.9-2.6]	2.4 [2.1-2.7]	2.1 [1.8-2.4]
Asia	23.3 [22.3-24.5]	24.2 [23.1-25.2]	22.5 [21.5-23.5]	5.0 [3.9-6.2]	5.3 [4.2-6.6]	4.6 [3.7-5.7]
Central Asia	7.4 [6.9-8.0]	7.9 [7.3-8.5]	7.0 [6.4-7.5]	6.4 [5.0-8.1]	6.8 [5.4-8.6]	6.0 [4.7-7.6]
Eastern Asia	4.8 [3.9-6.0]	5.2 [4.2-6.4]	4.5 [3.6-5.5]	10.1 [6.2-16.3]	10.8 [6.5-17.4]	9.4 [5.8-15.1]
Southern Asia	22.7 [22.1-23.4]	24.1 [23.4-24.8]	21.3 [20.6-22.0]	4.3 [3.8-4.9]	4.6 [4.1-5.2]	4.0 [3.6-4.5]
South-eastern Asia	31.4 [29.7-33.2]	32.3 [30.6-34.1]	30.4 [28.7-32.0]	3.2 [2.3-4.3]	3.4 [2.5-4.5]	2.9 [2.1-4.0]
Western Asia	18.0 [17.0-19.1]	18.7 [17.7-19.7]	17.3 [16.3-18.3]	6.2 [5.0-7.6]	6.6 [5.3-8.1]	5.7 [4.6-7.1]
Europe	3.6 [2.7-4.8]	3.9 [3.0-5.1]	3.2 [2.4-4.3]	7.9 [5.7-10.8]	8.4 [6.0-11.6]	7.4 [5.3-10.0]
Eastern Europe	4.6 [2.8-7.7]	4.9 [3.0-8.0]	4.3 [2.6-7.1]	9.1 [5.2-15.5]	9.7 [5.5-16.6]	8.5 [4.8-14.6]
Northern Europe	3.0 [2.6-3.5]	3.4 [2.9-3.9]	2.6 [2.3-3.1]	7.8 [5.7-10.5]	8.3 [6.0-11.2]	7.2 [5.2-9.9]
Southern Europe	3.6 [2.3-5.4]	4.0 [2.5-6.2]	3.2 [2.0-4.9]	9.0 [4.9-16.1]	9.6 [5.4-16.6]	8.4 [4.4-15.4]
Western Europe	2.5 [1.6-3.9]	2.8 [1.8-4.2]	2.2 [1.4-3.4]	5.6 [2.7-11.3]	6.0 [2.9-11.9]	5.2 [2.6-10.4]
Latin America and Caribbean	12.4 [11.8-13.0]	13.4 [12.8-14.1]	11.3 [10.7-11.9]	8.8 [7.4-10.3]	9.3 [8.0-10.9]	8.2 [7.0-9.5]
Caribbean	12.2 [11.4-13.1]	13.1 [12.3-14.0]	11.2 [10.4-12.1]	6.7 [5.4-8.3]	7.1 [5.8-8.8]	6.2 [5.0-7.7]
Central America	17.2 [16.4-18.1]	18.6 [17.8-19.5]	15.8 [15.0-16.6]	7.0 [5.9-8.4]	7.5 [6.2-8.9]	6.5 [5.5-7.8]
South America	9.9 [9.0-10.8]	10.8 [9.8-11.8]	8.9 [8.1-9.8]	9.9 [8.0-12.3]	10.6 [8.5-13.1]	9.3 [7.5-11.4]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	41.5 [35.0-48.3]	42.8 [36.1-49.7]	40.1 [33.6-47.0]	16.0 [8.6-27.7]	16.9 [9.2-29.0]	15.0 [7.9-26.6]
Melanesia	43.6 [36.9-50.5]	44.9 [38.1-51.8]	42.2 [35.6-49.0]	16.6 [8.9-28.7]	17.5 [9.2-30.8]	15.6 [7.9-28.4]
Micronesia	13.6 [10.6-17.2]	14.4 [11.1-18.5]	12.7 [9.7-16.3]	5.1 [2.4-10.3]	5.4 [2.7-10.6]	4.7 [2.3-9.3]
Polynesia	7.0 [5.7-8.5]	7.4 [6.1-9.0]	6.5 [5.3-7.9]	8.9 [6.5-12.0]	9.5 [6.8-13.0]	8.3 [6.0-11.4]
Australia and New Zealand	3.1 [1.7-5.5]	3.5 [2.1-5.8]	2.7 [1.5-4.7]	23.4 [16.1-32.7]	24.6 [17.0-34.3]	22.1 [15.0-31.3]
Northern America	4.1 [3.5-4.8]	4.6 [3.9-5.4]	3.6 [3.0-4.2]	9.8 [7.6-12.7]	10.5 [8.1-13.5]	9.2 [6.9-12.1]
SDG regions						
Australia and New Zealand	3.1 [1.7-5.5]	3.5 [2.1-5.8]	2.7 [1.5-4.7]	23.4 [16.1-32.7]	24.6 [17.0-34.3]	22.1 [15.0-31.3]
Central Asia and Southern Asia	30.2 [28.5-31.9]	31.1 [29.4-32.9]	29.2 [27.6-30.9]	3.3 [2.5-4.4]	3.5 [2.7-4.6]	3.1 [2.4-4.0]
Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia	13.1 [12.5-13.7]	13.8 [13.1-14.5]	12.3 [11.7-12.9]	7.5 [5.1-10.8]	8.0 [5.5-11.4]	6.9 [4.8-9.9]
Latin America and the Caribbean	12.4 [11.8-13.0]	13.4 [12.8-14.1]	11.3 [10.7-11.9]	8.8 [7.4-10.3]	9.3 [8.0-10.9]	8.2 [7.0-9.5]
Northern America and Europe	3.8 [3.1-4.6]	4.2 [3.5-4.9]	3.4 [2.8-4.1]	8.6 [6.9-10.8]	9.2 [7.4-11.4]	8.1 [6.4-10.0]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	41.5 [35.0-48.3]	42.8 [36.1-49.7]	40.1 [33.6-47.0]	16.0 [8.6-27.7]	16.9 [9.2-29.0]	15.0 [7.9-26.6]
Sub-Saharan Africa	32.2 [31.5-32.8]	34.6 [34.0-35.2]	29.6 [29.1-30.2]	3.9 [3.5-4.3]	4.2 [3.8-4.6]	3.6 [3.3-4.0]
Western Asia and Northern Africa	18.1 [17.0-19.3]	18.8 [17.7-20.0]	17.3 [16.2-18.4]	7.4 [6.3-8.5]	7.8 [6.7-9.1]	6.9 [5.9-8.0]
UNICEF regions						
East Asia and Pacific	13.4 [12.8-14.0]	14.1 [13.4-14.8]	12.6 [12.0-13.2]	7.8 [5.5-11.1]	8.4 [5.9-11.8]	7.3 [5.2-10.1]
Europe and Central Asia	4.6 [3.9-5.4]	4.9 [4.2-5.8]	4.2 [3.6-5.0]	7.5 [5.9-9.6]	8.0 [6.3-10.2]	7.0 [5.5-8.9]
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	6.2 [5.0-7.6]	6.6 [5.4-7.9]	5.8 [4.8-7.1]	7.9 [5.6-11.1]	8.4 [6.0-11.8]	7.4 [5.3-10.3]
Western Europe	2.7 [2.1-3.4]	3.0 [2.4-3.8]	2.3 [1.8-3.0]	7.0 [5.0-9.9]	7.5 [5.3-10.5]	6.6 [4.6-9.3]
Latin America and Caribbean	12.4 [11.8-13.0]	13.5 [12.8-14.1]	11.3 [10.7-11.9]	8.8 [7.4-10.4]	9.3 [8.0-10.9]	8.2 [7.0-9.6]
Middle East and North Africa	15.5 [14.7-16.2]	16.1 [15.4-16.9]	14.8 [14.0-15.5]	7.5 [6.4-8.9]	8.0 [6.8-9.5]	7.0 [5.9-8.3]
North America	4.1 [3.5-4.8]	4.6 [3.9-5.4]	3.6 [3.0-4.2]	9.8 [7.6-12.7]	10.5 [8.1-13.5]	9.2 [7.0-12.0]
South Asia	32.3 [30.5-34.1]	33.3 [31.5-35.1]	31.3 [29.6-33.0]	3.2 [2.3-4.3]	3.4 [2.5-4.6]	2.9 [2.1-4.1]
Sub-Saharan Africa	32.3 [31.7-32.9]	34.7 [34.1-35.3]	29.8 [29.2-30.4]	3.8 [3.5-4.3]	4.1 [3.7-4.5]	3.6 [3.2-4.0]
East and Southern Africa	32.1 [31.1-33.1]	34.5 [33.6-35.5]	29.6 [28.6-30.6]	4.5 [3.9-5.2]	4.8 [4.1-5.5]	4.2 [3.6-4.8]
West and Central Africa	32.5 [31.7-33.3]	34.8 [34.0-35.7]	30.1 [29.3-30.8]	3.2 [2.8-3.7]	3.4 [3.0-3.9]	3.0 [2.6-3.4]
WHO regions						
African Region	31.7 [31.1-32.4]	34.2 [33.6-34.7]	29.3 [28.7-29.9]	4.2 [3.8-4.6]	4.4 [4.0-4.9]	3.9 [3.5-4.3]
Region of the Americas	9.9 [9.4-10.3]	10.7 [10.3-11.2]	8.9 [8.5-9.4]	9.1 [7.9-10.4]	9.7 [8.5-11.1]	8.5 [7.4-9.8]
South-East Asia Region	29.7 [27.9-31.5]	30.7 [29.0-32.5]	28.5 [26.8-30.2]	3.3 [2.4-4.5]	3.5 [2.6-4.8]	3.1 [2.3-4.1]
Eastern Mediterranean Region	26.0 [24.4-27.6]	26.8 [25.3-28.4]	25.1 [23.7-26.6]	4.5 [3.9-5.3]	4.8 [4.1-5.7]	4.2 [3.6-4.9]
Europe Region	4.6 [3.9-5.4]	4.9 [4.2-5.7]	4.2 [3.6-4.9]	7.5 [5.9-9.5]	8.0 [6.3-10.2]	7.0 [5.6-8.9]
Western Pacific Region	10.2 [9.4-11.0]	10.7 [9.9-11.6]	9.6 [8.9-10.3]	9.7 [6.6-14.0]	10.3 [7.0-14.9]	9.0 [6.1-13.0]
World Bank income regions						
Low-income	35.8 [35.0-36.6]	38.0 [37.2-38.8]	33.5 [32.7-34.3]	3.5 [3.1-4.0]	3.8 [3.3-4.3]	3.3 [2.9-3.7]
Middle-income	22.8 [22.1-23.6]	24.0 [23.2-24.8]	21.6 [20.9-22.4]	5.5 [4.8-6.4]	5.9 [5.1-6.8]	5.1 [4.5-5.9]
Lower-middle-income	28.9 [27.8-30.0]	30.3 [29.2-31.3]	27.4 [26.4-28.5]	4.0 [3.5-4.6]	4.3 [3.7-4.9]	3.7 [3.2-4.3]
Upper middle-income	10.8 [10.4-11.3]	11.6 [11.0-12.1]	10.1 [9.6-10.6]	8.6 [6.8-10.8]	9.1 [7.1-11.6]	8.0 [6.3-10.0]
High-income	4.0 [3.4-4.7]	4.5 [3.9-5.1]	3.6 [3.1-4.1]	8.4 [7.0-10.1]	9.0 [7.4-10.8]	7.9 [6.5-9.5]

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TABLE

NUMBERS (MILLIONS) AFFECTED, BY SEX*

	Stunting (NUMBERS)			Overweight (NUMBERS)		
	Total (moderate & severe) 2024	Boys (moderate & severe) 2024	Girls (moderate & severe) 2024	Total (moderate & severe) 2024	Boys (moderate & severe) 2024	Girls (moderate & severe) 2024
Global	**150.2 [146.4-154.0]**	**81.1 [79.0-83.1]**	**69.1 [67.3-70.9]**	**35.5 [31.7-39.7]**	**19.4 [17.4-21.7]**	**16.1 [14.4-17.9]**
United Nations regions						
Africa	64.8 [63.5-66.1]	35.2 [34.6-35.9]	29.6 [29.0-30.2]	9.7 [8.8-10.6]	5.2 [4.8-5.7]	4.4 [4.0-4.9]
Eastern Africa	23.3 [22.6-24.0]	12.7 [12.4-13.1]	10.5 [10.2-10.9]	2.9 [2.5-3.4]	1.6 [1.4-1.8]	1.4 [1.2-1.6]
Middle Africa	14.7 [14.3-15.2]	7.9 [7.7-8.2]	6.8 [6.6-7.1]	1.9 [1.5-2.4]	1.0 [0.8-1.3]	0.9 [0.7-1.1]
Northern Africa	5.2 [4.6-5.9]	2.8 [2.5-3.1]	2.4 [2.2-2.7]	2.5 [2.0-3.0]	1.3 [1.1-1.6]	1.1 [0.9-1.4]
Southern Africa	1.7 [1.5-1.9]	0.9 [0.8-1.0]	0.7 [0.7-0.8]	0.8 [0.6-1.2]	0.5 [0.3-0.7]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]
Western Africa	19.9 [19.2-20.6]	10.8 [10.5-11.2]	9.1 [8.7-9.4]	1.5 [1.3-1.7]	0.8 [0.7-0.9]	0.7 [0.6-0.8]
Asia	76.8 [73.3-80.4]	41.1 [39.3-42.9]	35.7 [34.1-37.4]	16.3 [13.0-20.5]	9.0 [7.2-11.3]	7.3 [5.9-9.0]
Central Asia	0.7 [0.7-0.8]	0.4 [0.4-0.4]	0.3 [0.3-0.3]	0.6 [0.5-0.8]	0.3 [0.3-0.4]	0.3 [0.2-0.3]
Eastern Asia	2.9 [2.4-3.6]	1.6 [1.3-2.0]	1.3 [1.0-1.6]	6.1 [3.7-9.8]	3.4 [2.0-5.5]	2.7 [1.7-4.3]
Southern Asia	11.6 [11.3-12.0]	6.4 [6.2-6.5]	5.3 [5.1-5.5]	2.2 [2.0-2.5]	1.2 [1.1-1.4]	1.0 [0.9-1.1]
South-eastern Asia	56.4 [53.3-59.5]	30.0 [28.4-31.6]	26.4 [25.0-27.9]	5.7 [4.1-7.8]	3.1 [2.3-4.2]	2.5 [1.9-3.5]
Western Asia	5.1 [4.9-5.4]	2.7 [2.6-2.9]	2.4 [2.3-2.5]	1.8 [1.4-2.2]	1.0 [0.8-1.2]	0.8 [0.6-1.0]
Europe	1.2 [0.9-1.6]	0.7 [0.5-0.9]	0.5 [0.4-0.7]	2.6 [1.9-3.6]	1.4 [1.0-2.0]	1.2 [0.9-1.6]
Eastern Europe	0.6 [0.4-1.0]	0.3 [0.2-0.5]	0.3 [0.2-0.4]	1.2 [0.7-2.0]	0.6 [0.4-1.1]	0.5 [0.3-0.9]
Northern Europe	0.2 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]
Southern Europe	0.2 [0.1-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.5 [0.3-0.9]	0.3 [0.2-0.5]	0.2 [0.1-0.4]
Western Europe	0.2 [0.2-0.4]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.5 [0.3-1.1]	0.3 [0.1-0.6]	0.2 [0.1-0.5]
Latin America and Caribbean	5.8 [5.5-6.1]	3.2 [3.1-3.4]	2.6 [2.5-2.7]	4.1 [3.5-4.8]	2.2 [1.9-2.6]	1.9 [1.6-2.2]
Caribbean	0.4 [0.4-0.4]	0.2 [0.2-0.2]	0.2 [0.2-0.2]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]	0.1 [0.1-0.1]
Central America	2.6 [2.5-2.7]	1.4 [1.4-1.5]	1.2 [1.1-1.2]	1.1 [0.9-1.3]	0.6 [0.5-0.7]	0.5 [0.4-0.6]
South America	2.8 [2.6-3.1]	1.6 [1.4-1.7]	1.3 [1.1-1.4]	2.8 [2.3-3.5]	1.5 [1.2-1.9]	1.3 [1.0-1.6]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	0.7 [0.6-0.8]	0.4 [0.3-0.4]	0.3 [0.3-0.4]	0.3 [0.1-0.4]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]
Melanesia	0.6 [0.5-0.7]	0.3 [0.3-0.4]	0.3 [0.3-0.4]	0.2 [0.1-0.4]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]
Micronesia	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]
Polynesia	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]
Australia and New Zealand	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]
Northern America	0.8 [0.7-1.0]	0.5 [0.4-0.6]	0.4 [0.3-0.4]	2.0 [1.5-2.6]	1.1 [0.8-1.4]	0.9 [0.7-1.2]
SDG regions						
Australia and New Zealand	0.1 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.1]	0.0 [0.0-0.0]	0.4 [0.3-0.6]	0.2 [0.2-0.3]	0.2 [0.1-0.3]
Central Asia and Southern Asia	57.1 [53.9-60.3]	30.3 [28.7-32.1]	26.7 [25.2-28.2]	6.3 [4.7-8.4]	3.5 [2.6-4.5]	2.8 [2.2-3.7]
Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia	14.6 [13.9-15.3]	8.0 [7.6-8.4]	6.6 [6.3-6.9]	8.3 [5.7-12.1]	4.6 [3.2-6.6]	3.7 [2.6-5.3]
Latin America and the Caribbean	5.8 [5.5-6.1]	3.2 [3.1-3.4]	2.6 [2.5-2.7]	4.1 [3.5-4.8]	2.2 [1.9-2.6]	1.9 [1.6-2.2]
Northern America and Europe	2.0 [1.7-2.5]	1.2 [1.0-1.4]	0.9 [0.7-1.1]	4.7 [3.7-5.8]	2.5 [2.0-3.2]	2.1 [1.7-2.6]
Oceania excl. Australia & New Zealand	0.7 [0.6-0.8]	0.4 [0.3-0.4]	0.3 [0.3-0.4]	0.3 [0.1-0.4]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.2]
Sub-Saharan Africa	59.6 [58.4-60.8]	32.4 [31.9-33.0]	27.2 [26.6-27.7]	7.2 [6.5-8.0]	3.9 [3.5-4.3]	3.3 [3.0-3.7]
Western Asia and Northern Africa	10.4 [9.7-11.0]	5.5 [5.2-5.9]	4.8 [4.5-5.2]	4.2 [3.6-4.9]	2.3 [2.0-2.7]	1.9 [1.6-2.2]
UNICEF regions						
East Asia and Pacific	15.2 [14.5-15.9]	8.3 [7.9-8.8]	6.9 [6.6-7.2]	8.9 [6.3-12.6]	5.0 [3.5-7.0]	4.0 [2.8-5.5]
Europe and Central Asia	2.3 [1.9-2.7]	1.3 [1.1-1.5]	1.0 [0.9-1.2]	3.7 [2.9-4.8]	2.0 [1.6-2.6]	1.7 [1.3-2.2]
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	1.7 [1.4-2.0]	0.9 [0.7-1.1]	0.8 [0.6-0.9]	2.1 [1.5-3.0]	1.2 [0.8-1.6]	1.0 [0.7-1.3]
Western Europe	0.6 [0.5-0.8]	0.3 [0.3-0.4]	0.3 [0.2-0.3]	1.6 [1.1-2.2]	0.9 [0.6-1.2]	0.7 [0.5-1.0]
Latin America and Caribbean	5.8 [5.5-6.1]	3.2 [3.1-3.4]	2.6 [2.5-2.7]	4.1 [3.4-4.8]	2.2 [1.9-2.6]	1.9 [1.6-2.2]
Middle East and North Africa	7.6 [7.2-7.9]	4.0 [3.9-4.2]	3.5 [3.4-3.7]	3.7 [3.1-4.3]	2.0 [1.7-2.4]	1.7 [1.4-2.0]
North America	0.8 [0.7-1.0]	0.5 [0.4-0.6]	0.4 [0.3-0.4]	2.0 [1.5-2.6]	1.1 [0.8-1.4]	0.9 [0.7-1.2]
South Asia	56.1 [53.0-59.2]	29.8 [28.2-31.5]	26.3 [24.9-27.7]	5.5 [4.0-7.5]	3.0 [2.2-4.2]	2.5 [1.8-3.4]
Sub-Saharan Africa	62.3 [61.1-63.5]	33.8 [33.2-34.5]	28.4 [27.8-29.0]	7.4 [6.7-8.3]	4.0 [3.6-4.4]	3.4 [3.1-3.8]
East and Southern Africa	30.7 [29.7-31.6]	16.7 [16.3-17.2]	14.0 [13.5-14.4]	4.3 [3.7-5.0]	2.3 [2.0-2.7]	2.0 [1.7-2.3]
West and Central Africa	31.6 [30.8-32.4]	17.1 [16.7-17.5]	14.5 [14.1-14.8]	3.1 [2.7-3.6]	1.7 [1.5-1.9]	1.4 [1.3-1.6]
WHO regions						
African Region	59.1 [58.0-60.3]	32.2 [31.6-32.7]	26.9 [26.4-27.5]	7.7 [7.0-8.6]	4.2 [3.8-4.6]	3.6 [3.2-3.9]
Region of the Americas	6.6 [6.3-6.9]	3.7 [3.5-3.9]	2.9 [2.8-3.1]	6.1 [5.3-7.0]	3.3 [2.9-3.8]	2.8 [2.4-3.2]
South-East Asia Region	49.3 [46.4-52.4]	26.4 [24.9-28.0]	22.9 [21.6-24.3]	5.5 [4.0-7.5]	3.0 [2.2-4.1]	2.5 [1.8-3.3]
Eastern Mediterranean Region	24.3 [22.8-25.8]	12.8 [12.1-13.6]	11.5 [10.8-12.1]	4.2 [3.6-5.0]	2.3 [2.0-2.7]	1.9 [1.7-2.3]
Europe Region	2.3 [1.9-2.7]	1.3 [1.1-1.5]	1.0 [0.9-1.2]	3.8 [3.0-4.8]	2.1 [1.6-2.6]	1.7 [1.4-2.2]
Western Pacific Region	8.4 [7.8-9.1]	4.6 [4.3-5.0]	3.8 [3.5-4.1]	8.0 [5.4-11.5]	4.4 [3.0-6.4]	3.5 [2.4-5.1]
World Bank income regions						
Low-income	41.7 [40.7-42.6]	22.4 [22.0-22.9]	19.2 [18.8-19.7]	4.1 [3.6-4.7]	2.2 [2.0-2.6]	1.9 [1.7-2.2]
Middle-income	105.5 [101.9-109.2]	56.9 [55.1-58.8]	48.6 [46.8-50.3]	25.6 [22.1-29.6]	14.0 [12.2-16.1]	11.5 [10.0-13.3]
Lower-middle-income	88.7 [85.4-92.0]	47.7 [46.0-49.4]	41.0 [39.5-42.6]	12.3 [10.6-14.2]	6.7 [5.8-7.8]	5.6 [4.8-6.4]
Upper middle-income	16.8 [16.0-17.5]	9.2 [8.8-9.7]	7.5 [7.2-7.9]	13.3 [10.5-16.7]	7.3 [5.7-9.3]	6.0 [4.7-7.5]
High-income	2.7 [2.3-3.1]	1.5 [1.3-1.8]	1.2 [1.0-1.3]	5.6 [4.7-6.8]	3.1 [2.5-3.7]	2.6 [2.1-3.1]

Note: The numbers affected do not always sum to the reported total due to rounding. *Complete data series for stunting, wasting, severe wasting and overweight (2000 to 2024) of prevalence and numbers affected can be found at the websites listed on page 22 for global as well as for the following groupings: (i) United Nations regions and sub-regions; (ii) UNICEF regions; (iii) WHO regions; (iv) World Bank country income classifications; (v) World Bank regions; (vi) SDG regions; and (vii) the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) low-income food deficient countries classification.

Prevalence thresholds for wasting, overweight and stunting in children under 5 years

The thresholds presented in Table 1 were established through the WHO-UNICEF Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring (TEAM) (de Onis *et al.* 2018) and released in 2018. These thresholds have been used for development of prevalence-based assessments in maps and tables in this brochure. The thresholds were developed in relation to standard deviations (SD) of the normative WHO Child Growth Standards. The international definition of 'normal' (two SD from the WHO standards median) defines the first threshold, which includes 2.3 per cent of the area under the normalized distribution. Multipliers of this 'very low' level (rounded to 2.5 per cent) set the basis for establishing subsequent thresholds.

Table 1. Prevalence thresholds and corresponding labels for stunting, wasting and overweight

	Prevalence thresholds (%)	
Labels	**Stunting**	**Wasting and overweight**
Very low	< 2.5	< 2.5
Low	2.5 – < 10	2.5 – < 5
Medium	10 – < 20	5 – < 10
High	20 – <30	10 – < 15
Very high	≥ 30	≥ 15

Table 2: Rules for progress assessment against child malnutrition indicators for SDG target 2.2 used on page 4

Progress assessment label	Stunting (2030 target: reduce the number of children under 5 with stunting by 50 per cent)	Overweight (2030 target: reduce the percentage of children under 5 with overweight to less than 3 per cent)	Wasting (2030 target: reduce the percentage of children under 5 with wasting to less than 3 per cent)
On track	Annual average rate of reduction (AARR) > required[i] AARR or level ≤ 3%[ii]	AARR > required[iii] AARR or level ≤ 3%[iv]	AARR > required[iii] AARR or level ≤ 3%[iv]
Off track (some progress)	AARR < required, but > 0.5	AARR < required, but > 1.5	AARR < required, but > 2.0
Off track (no progress)	-0.5 ≤ AARR < 0.5	-1.5 ≤ AARR < 1.5	-2.0 ≤ AARR < 2.0
Off track (worsening)	AARR < -0.5	AARR < -1.5	AARR < -2.0
Assessment not possible	Assessment not possible[v]	Assessment not possible[v]	Assessment not possible[vi]

Source: WHO and UNICEF, 2017

i. Required AARR is based on the change in stunting prevalence corresponding to a 50 per cent reduction in the number of children affected by stunting between 2012 and 2030, considering the population growth estimated by the United Nations World Population Prospects.

ii. Countries where the point estimate or lower 95 per cent confidence interval for the year 2024 is ≤3 per cent are considered on track.

iii. Required AARR is based on the required change in overweight or wasting prevalence to reduce from the baseline (2012) prevalence to 3 per cent by 2030.

iv. Countries where the point estimate for the year 2024 is ≤3 per cent are considered on track.

v. Assessment is not possible for stunting and overweight where countries did not have any input data (e.g., household survey data) for the model that were more recent than 2000.

vi. Assessment is not possible for wasting where countries do not have at least two data points between 2005 and 2024, with at least one point being more recent than 2012.

RECENTNESS OF DATA SOURCES

Two-thirds of the global child population live in countries with data collected on stunting, wasting and overweight within the past five years

The graphics on the following page show the recentness of the latest available country data points on malnutrition (e.g., from a household survey) among children under 5 years in the JME. The graphics in the left-hand column are by percentage of the under-five population and the graphics in the right-hand column are by the percentage of countries.

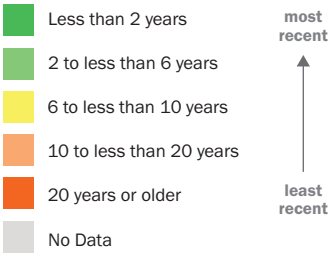
For the graphics by percentage of the under-five population, the availability of data for each country was weighted by the under-five population, meaning that more populous countries contributed more to the percentages in each category than less populous ones.

Globally, about two-thirds of children live in countries where data on malnutrition are available in the last five years. Less than 5 per cent of children live in countries with no data at all. This suggests that the modelled regional and global estimates are highly representative of the situation of the majority of children across the globe for the most recent period.

The situation by percentage of countries (right-hand column) looks vastly different, with less than half of all countries having at least one data point in the last five years and nearly one quarter of countries with no data at all. This indicates that the governments of many countries are not able to adequately assess and plan programmes to identify, prevent and treat malnutrition.

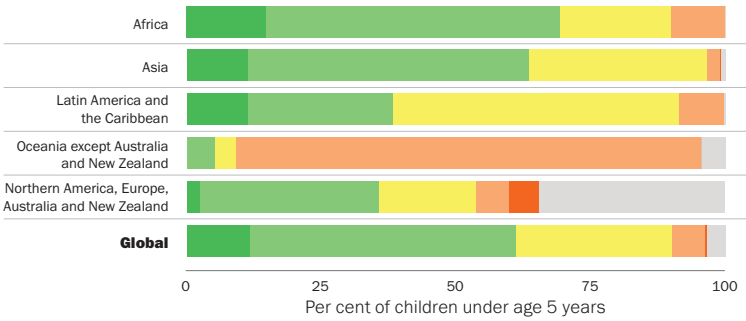
Gaps in the data make it challenging to accurately estimate the prevalence of malnutrition. Regular data collection (every three to five years) is critical to properly plan and monitor programmes to combat child malnutrition at country, regional and global levels going forward.

Recentness of the latest available country data point (e.g., from household surveys) on malnutrition among children aged under 5 years included in the JME

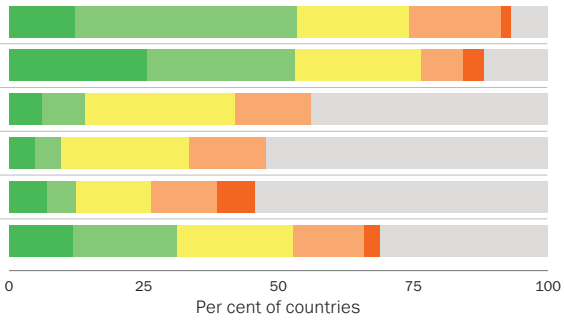


STUNTING

Percentage of the **under-five population** by recentness of the latest available country stunting data (e.g., from household surveys) included in the JME, by region and global

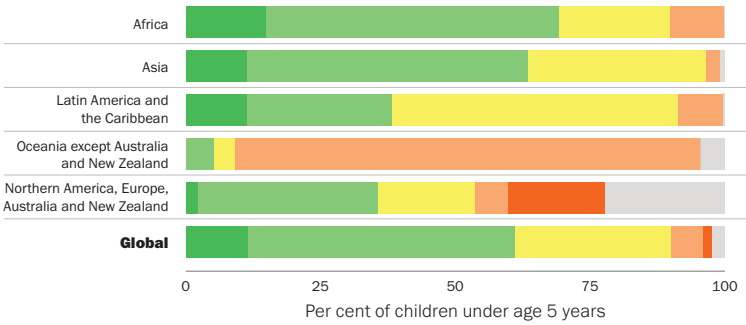


Percentage of **countries** by recentness of the latest available country stunting data (e.g., from household surveys) included in the JME, by region and global

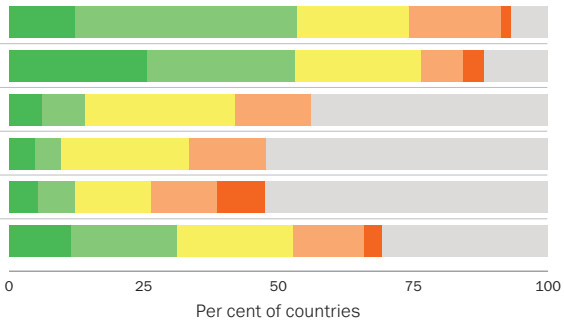


WASTING

Percentage of the **under-five population** by recentness of the latest available country overweight data (e.g., from household surveys) included in the JME, by region and global

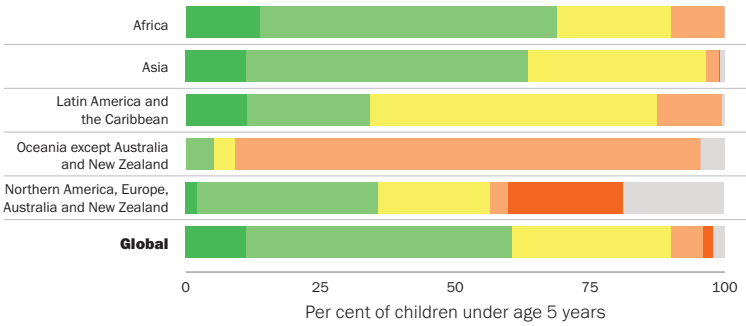


Percentage of **countries** by recentness of the latest available country overweight data (e.g., from household surveys) included in the JME, by region and global

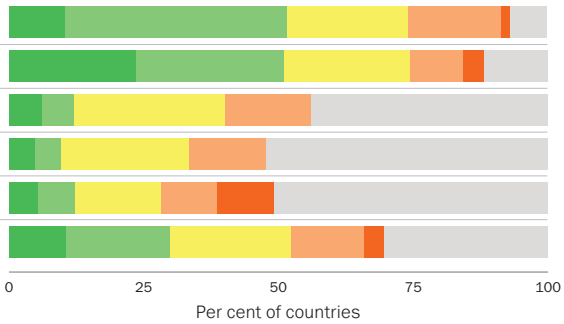


OVERWEIGHT

Percentage of the **under-five population** by recentness of the latest available country overweight data (e.g., from household surveys) included in the JME, by region and global



Percentage of **countries** by recentness of the latest available country overweight data (e.g., from household surveys) included in the JME, by region and global



ONLINE MATERIALS

Summary of available materials

This key findings report of the 2025 edition of the Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates summarizes the new regional and global numbers and main messages for the official United Nations data on child malnutrition. Additional information is available and the following materials can be downloaded from the links below:

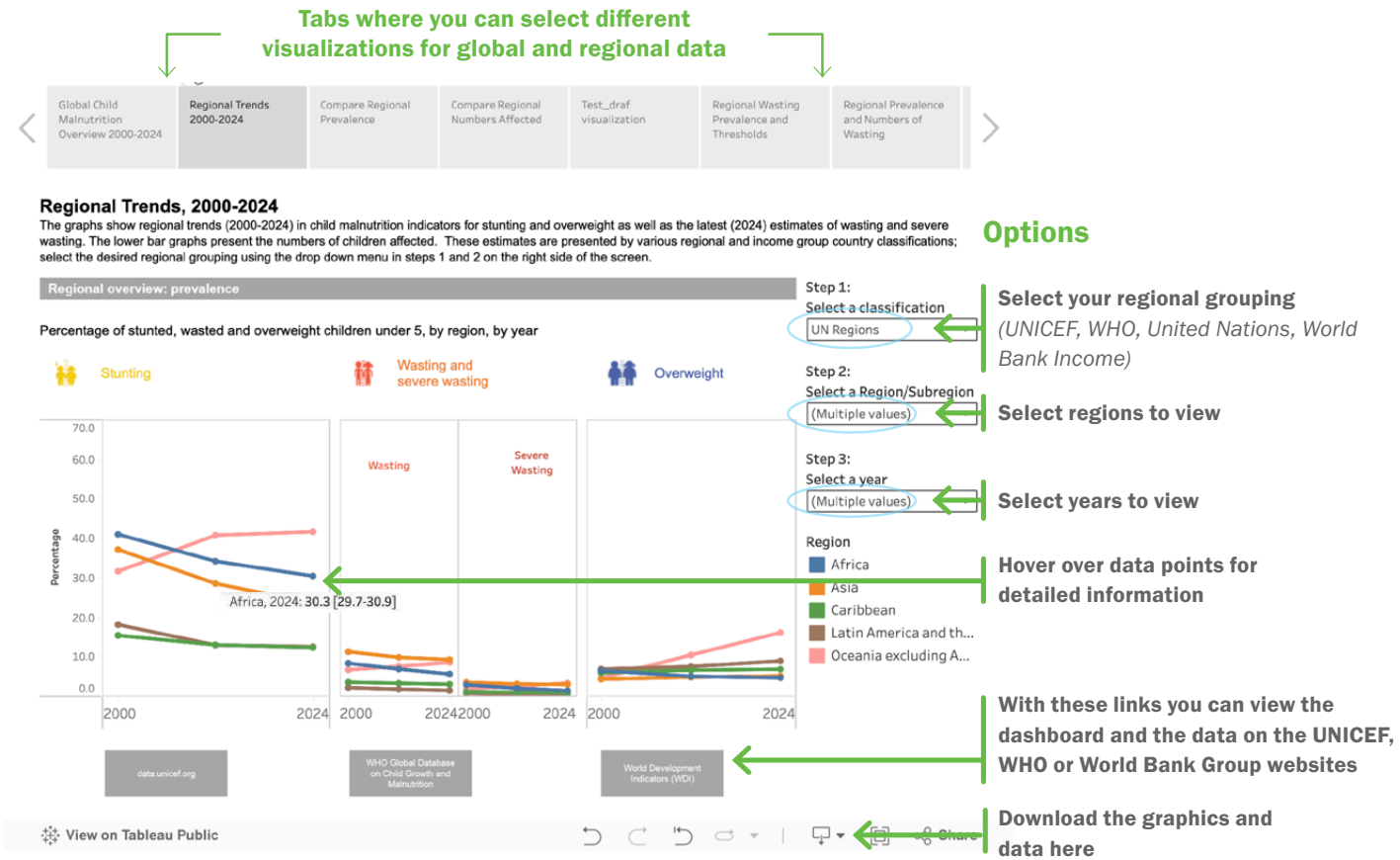
- The latest country-level joint malnutrition dataset, a time series of country estimates from sources such as household surveys that were used to generate the joint child malnutrition country, regional and global modelled estimates for stunting and overweight and the regional and global modelled estimates for wasting and severe wasting
- The country modelled estimates for stunting and overweight
- The joint child malnutrition global and regional estimates database by various regional groupings (e.g., United Nations, UNICEF, WHO, etc.) and for more years than presented in this report
- A comprehensive documentation of JME methodology (UNICEF, WHO and World Bank, 2024) that provides background, rationale and description of the standard approach followed by the UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates group to generate child malnutrition estimates. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-standard-methodology>; <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates/methodology>
- Interactive dashboards, which allow users to visualize and export the global and regional estimates for a number of regional groupings

UNICEF: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme>

WHO: <www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates>

World Bank Group: <data.worldbank.org/child-malnutrition>

Interactive dashboard overview



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The new estimates and trends presented in this report supersede all previously published estimates for years that fall within the same time period. Care should be taken to use only these estimates for the interpretation of trends from 2000 to 2024; due to modifications in methodology and changes in data availability, differences between these and previous estimates should not be interpreted as representing time trends.

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