**Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS)**

**SUMMARY NOTES**

- NLIS is a web-based information system that brings together existing nutrition and nutrition-related health and development data from WHO, UNICEF, UN Statistics Division, UNDP, FAO, DHS, the World Bank, IFPRI and ILO.
- Data are presented in automated country profiles or can be downloaded as user-defined data.
- NLIS country profiles with selected indicators for nutrition, food security, health services, caring practices, capacity, commitment and meta-indicators, presented as an on-line version with access to data sources and as a 2-page printer-friendly version.
- NLIS user-defined downloadable data dynamically draws data from all WHO Nutrition Databases.
- The purpose is to bring together nutrition-related indicators in standardized form; track changes over time and monitor progress; and, generate easy-to-interpret country profiles.
- The NLIS Indicator Interpretation Guide covers all indicators in the Country Profile with information on what the indicator tells us, how it is defined, what are the consequences and implications, as well as sources and further reading.
- NLIS can be accessed directly at [http://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis](http://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis).

**Introduction**

The Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS) was developed as a component of the Landscape Analysis on Countries’ Readiness to Accelerate Action in Nutrition which was a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation ([http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/landscape_analysis/en](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/landscape_analysis/en)).

This web-based information system provides nutrition and nutrition-related health and development data in the form of both automated country profiles and user-defined downloadable data which pull together the data from all the existing WHO Nutrition Databases dynamically for the first time.

**Data sources**

The NLIS draws data for the country profiles from available databases. Sources include WHO, UNICEF, UN Statistics Division, UNDP, FAO, DHS, the World Bank, IFPRI and ILO. Data from the WHO Global Nutrition Databases are dynamically linked to and therefore continuously updated, whereas other WHO data and from our partner agencies are updated every 2 months. More recent data might be available from other sources, including in-country sources.

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1 World Health Organization
2 United Nations Children’s Fund
3 United Nations Development Programme
4 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
5 Demographic and Health Surveys
6 International Food Policy Research Institute
7 International Labour Organization
Purpose
The purpose of NLIS is to provide a single source of information that draws on indicators from
WHO Nutrition Global Databases and other WHO and external data sources to:

- Bring together nutrition-related indicators in standardized form.
  NLIS presents a variety of nutrition indicators as well as health, food, care, development
  and economic indicators related to nutrition in a single easy-to-access and user-friendly
  location. Users may therefore assess nutrition problems, capacity and commitment to act
  at-scale, and other indicators in a comprehensive manner.

- Track changes over time and monitor progress.
  NLIS includes data from multiple time points, including historical as well as most-recent
  data, and has the capacity to incorporate data from future time points as these become
  available. Users may therefore assess changes in indicators over time to measure direction
  of change and monitor progress.

- Generate easy-to-interpret country profiles.
  In addition to providing extensive data to analysts, it is important to provide an easy-to-
  understand snapshot of key nutrition, health, and development indicators at national level.
  The concise, succinct Country Profile with select nutrition and related indicators and visual
  presentations, is a powerful advocacy tool for communicating with policy makers who might
  not have a health or nutrition background.

The NLIS thereby contributes to raising awareness and informing decision making and resource
allocation through having quantitative data at-hand and in analyzable format in combination with a
country profile.

Content
Search data
Selected indicators from the WHO Nutrition Global Databases can be viewed and generated in an
Excel spreadsheet for download. For researchers, analysts, and those interested in examining the
nutrition landscape in greater detail or according to regional or demographic stratifications, the
search data provides a user-defined customized function that allows selecting indicators of interest
for view or download

Country Profiles
Data presented in the country profiles are intended to give an overview snapshot of a country’s
nutrition, health, and development landscape at the national level. Key nutrition and nutrition-
related indicators are organized around the following areas: child malnutrition including low birth
weight, maternal malnutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, health services, food security,
caring practices, commitment, capacity, and meta-indicators which describe general conditions and
contextual factors that affect how nutrition actions may impact. One unique feature of the NLIS
Country Profiles are the proxy indicators of "readiness", i.e. "willingness" and "ability".

These data are valuable to policy-makers interested in the broader picture, useful for comparison
purposes among countries, and simple and straightforward enough to be appealing and
communicative to people of different backgrounds and education levels. The NLIS Country Profiles
can therefore be compelling tools for assessing a country’s national nutrition landscape.

Complete country profiles are available for 193 Member States and exist in two forms: (1) as an
on-line version with access to data sources and a detailed definition for each indicator and (2) as a
2-page printer-friendly version.

NLIS Indicator Interpretation Guide
The Guide, which will soon be available from the NLIS web site, covers all indicators in the country
profile. For each indicator, the following aspects are addressed:

1. What does this indicator tell us?
2. How is it defined?
3. What are the consequences/implications?
4. Source and further reading
Achievements
The NLIS is still work in progress and will continuously be further enhanced and updated. The first phase and important milestone as one of the interagency products of the Landscape Analysis project has been accomplished, through achieving:

- Improved access to comprehensive nutrition information across multiple sources from our partner agencies (Efficiency)
- Combined information using the UNICEF conceptual framework which will facilitate and contribute to more integrated approaches to scaling up effective nutrition interventions (Integration)
- Linked dynamically to WHO Global Nutrition Databases (Timeliness)
- Easy access to quality information compiled by the partner agencies, leading to more informed decision-making (Accessibility)
- Most indicators available for all countries (Comprehensiveness)

Access
NLIS can be accessed directly at http://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis or through the NHD website at http://www.who.int/nutrition (see the right hand top corner).

For more information regarding the Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS) please send an email to nutrition@who.int.

INFOSAN serves as a vehicle for food safety authorities and other relevant agencies to exchange food safety information and to improve collaboration among food safety authorities at both the national and international level.

INFOSAN Emergency, embedded in INFOSAN, links official national contact points to address outbreaks and emergencies of international importance and allows for the rapid exchange of information. INFOSAN Emergency is intended to complement and support the existing WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN).

INFOSAN is operated/managed by WHO, Geneva. It currently includes 177 Member States.

More information is available at: www.who.int/foodsafety