

## INFORMATION SHEET

### UNICEF-WHO-The World Bank joint child malnutrition estimates

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#### Background

- During the 2012 World Health Assembly, a 13-year plan (2012-2025) to address maternal, infant and child nutrition — with biennial reporting to 2022 and final report in 2025 — was proposed.
- The aim of the plan is to alleviate the double burden of malnutrition in children, starting from the earliest ages of development.
- One of several global targets in the plan is a 40% reduction of the global number of children under five years of age who are stunted by 2025, compared to the baseline of 2010.

#### UNICEF-WHO-World Bank estimates of child malnutrition

- UNICEF-WHO harmonization of child malnutrition estimates started in 2011.
- Annual review of available data with objective to derive a joint child malnutrition data set.
- Apply same peer-reviewed, multi-level model to obtain joint prevalence and burden number estimates for child stunting, underweight, wasting and overweight.
- A joint publication presents the latest estimates (in prevalence and burden numbers) for 2011 as well as trends from 1990.
- Estimates are presented by MDG, UN, UNICEF, WHO and World Bank regional classifications.

**Below are the most recent estimates of prevalence and burden numbers by MDG region as well as Global trends between 1990 and 2015 for child malnutrition.**

Questions related to the WHA resolution on maternal, infant and child nutrition may be directed to Dr Francesco Branca (WHO) (brancaf@who.int) or Dr Werner Schultink (UNICEF) (wschultink@unicef.org).

Questions related to the UNICEF-WHO-World Bank estimates of child malnutrition may be directed to Dr Mercedes de Onis (WHO) (deonism@who.int) or Dr Tessa Wardlaw (UNICEF) (twardlaw@unicef.org).

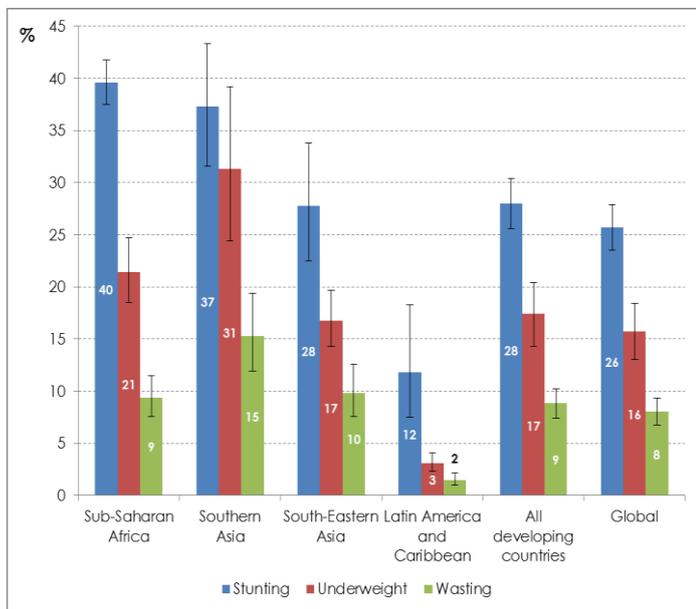
#### **Key facts**

- In 2011, an estimated 165 million children under five years of age worldwide were stunted (i.e., low height-for-age), a decrease from an estimated 253 million similar children in 1990.
- High prevalence levels of stunting among children under five years of age in Africa (36% in 2011) and Asia (27% in 2011) remain a public health problem, one which often goes unrecognized.
- In 2011, an estimated 101 million children under five years of age worldwide were underweight (i.e., low weight-for-age), a decrease from an estimated 159 million similar children in 1990.
- Although the prevalences of stunting and underweight among children under five years of age worldwide have decreased since 1990, overall progress is insufficient and millions of children remain at risk.

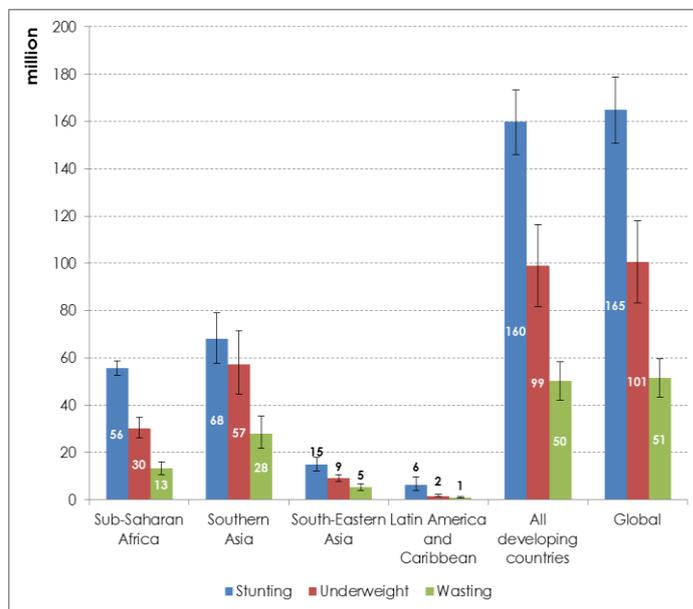
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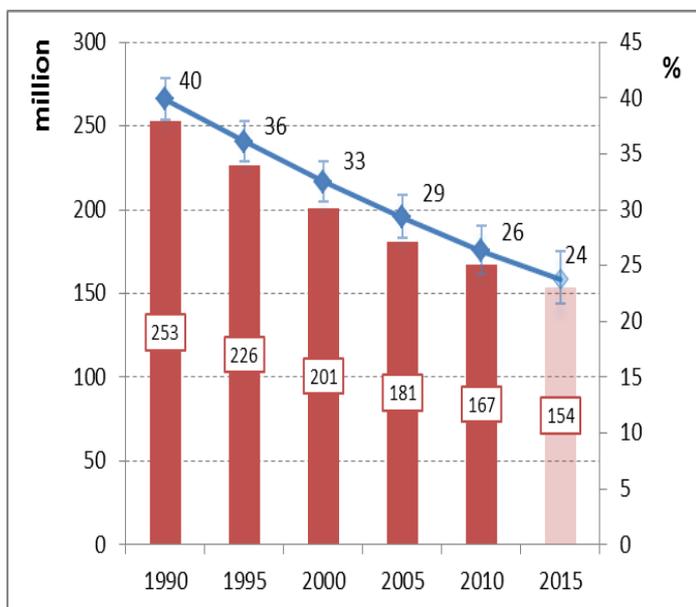
**Estimated prevalence of stunting, underweight, wasting during 2011 by MDG region**



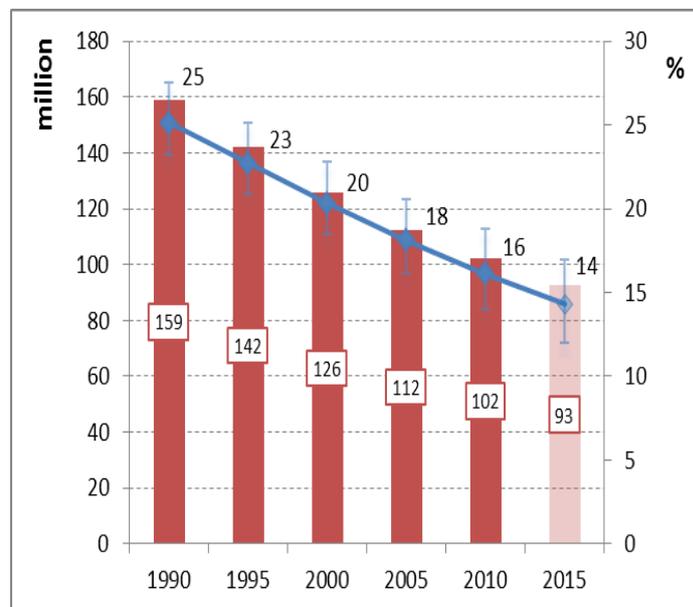
**Estimated burden numbers of stunting, underweight, wasting during 2011 by MDG region**



**Estimated Global prevalence and burden numbers of stunting 1990–2015**



**Estimated Global prevalence and burden numbers of underweight 1990–2015**



Source: UNICEF and WHO analysis of the UNICEF-WHO Joint Global Nutrition Database, 2011 revision (completed July 2012); United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, CD-ROM Edition*. The data presented here supersede relevant historical data previously published by UNICEF and WHO.