Goal 2 in the spotlight: renewing & unlocking the benefits of minimum dietary diversity

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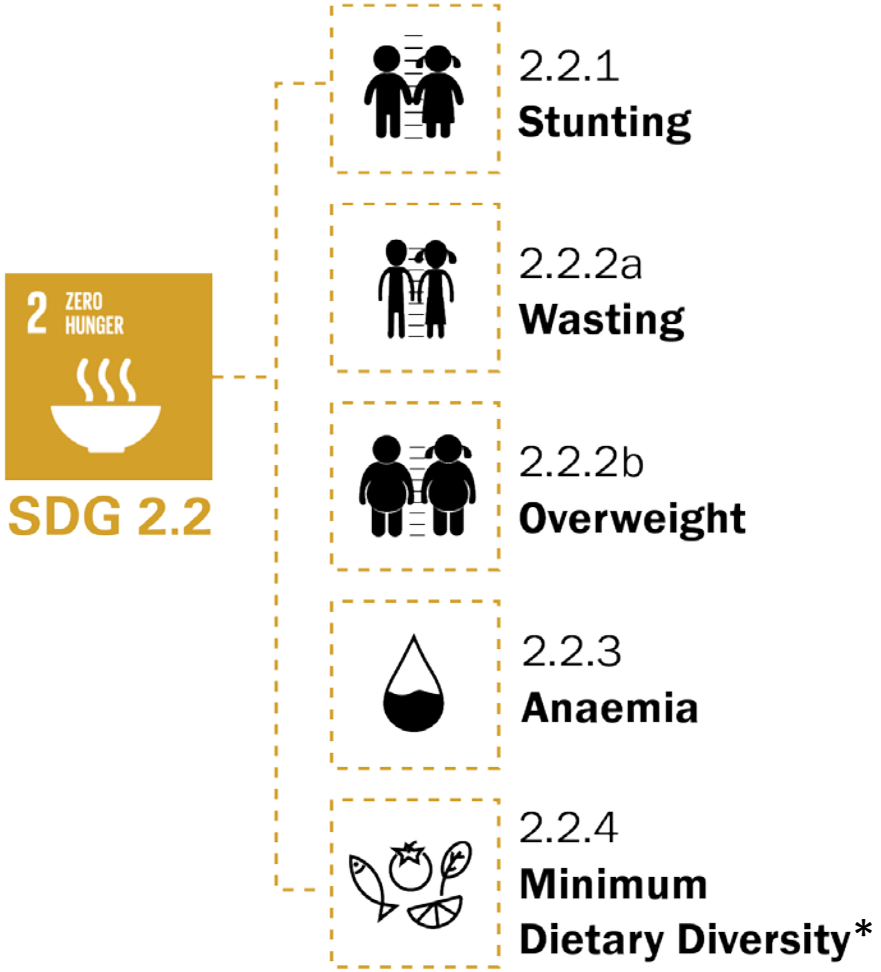
Outline

- Overview of SDG Goal 2
- Taking stock of SDG indicators on child malnutrition
- Understanding the new SDG on minimum dietary diversity
- Data availability for SDG2
- Upcoming initiatives related to SDG2: Food Security and Nutrition domain

Overview: SDG2

Nutrition priorities are in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 2.2 states:

"By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons"



Custodian agencies

UNICEF and WHO

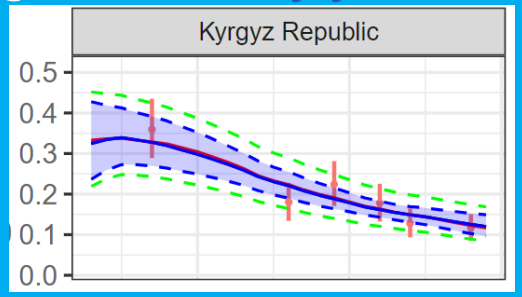
WHO

UNICEF and FAO

SDG2: Child malnutrition

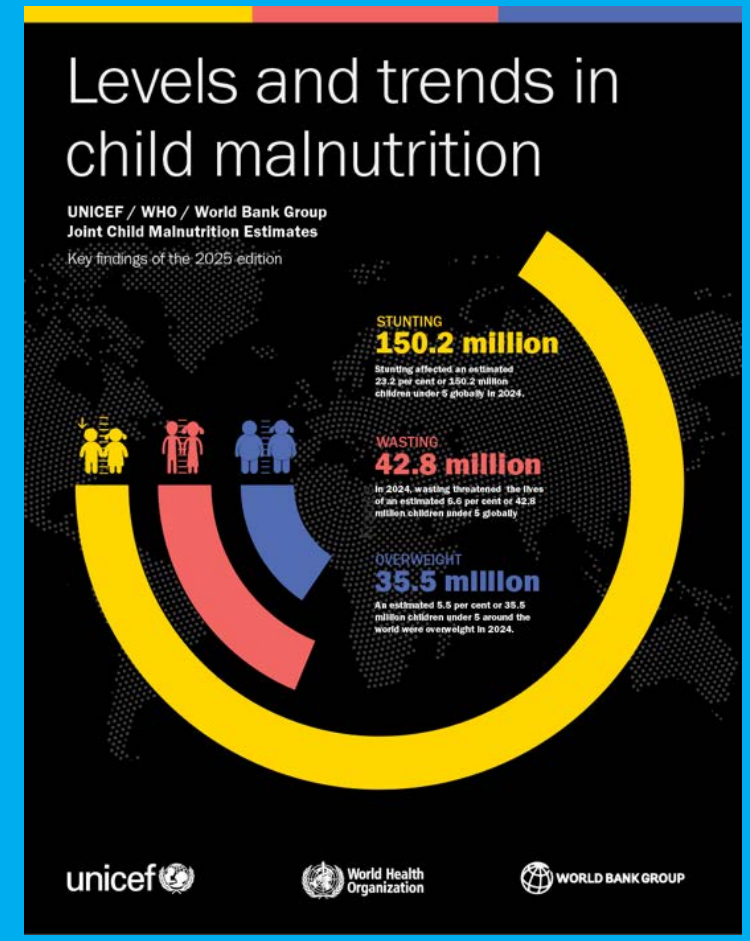
2025 edition of Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates will be released in June 2025 including:

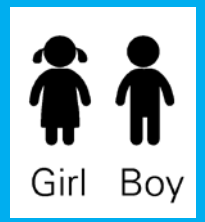
- Global and regional estimates for stunting, wasting and overweight.
- Country level modeled estimates for Stunting and overweight, for every year 2000-2024.



- For the first-time modelled sex-disaggregated estimat

- Country level survey estimates (stunting, wasting and overweight), for survey years
- Time trends with disaggregated estimates





SDG2: Minimum dietary diversity

What is it?

SDG indicator 2.2.4: Minimum dietary diversity (MDD)

a) Children

b) Women of reproductive age

- Directly measures ***dietary diversity –consumption of variety of food groups***
- Indirectly measures ***nutrient adequacy*** in the two population groups.

Officially adopted as SDG in March 2025 – bringing healthy diets at the center of global efforts to prevent all forms of malnutrition

Minimum dietary diversity – Child (MDD-C)

What is it and how is it calculated?

$$\frac{\text{Number of children aged 6–23 months who consumed foods and beverages from at least five out of eight defined food groups during the previous day.}}{\text{Total number of children aged 6–23 months surveyed}} \times 100 =$$

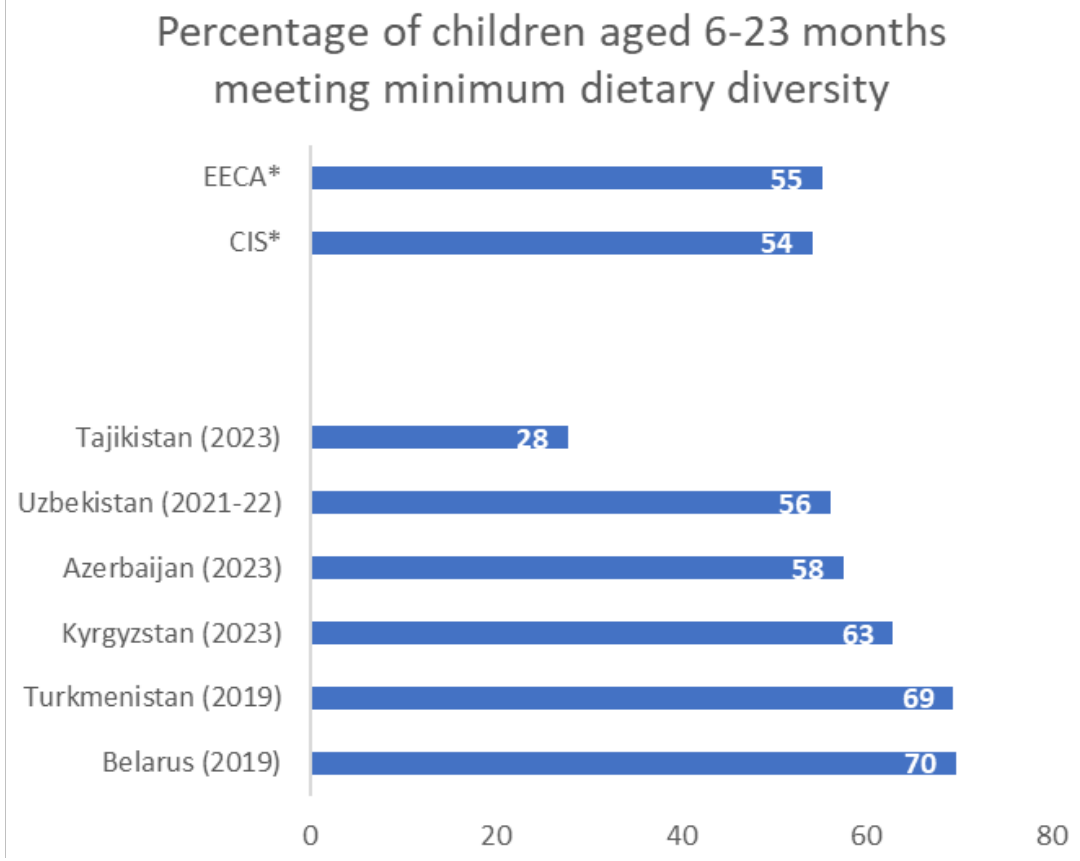
Percentage of children aged 6–23 months who consumed a minimum diverse diet in the previous day

Reflects a level of dietary diversity – consumption of a variety of food groups needed to support healthy growth and development

Over 1 in 2 children in CIS countries are meeting the minimum dietary diversity

In other words, nearly one-half of all children aged 6–23 months *have diets that are lacking in essential vitamins and minerals.* This is highly consequential.

Children in richest households have dietary diversity nearly 1.5 times higher than those in poorest households.



Source: UNICEF Global Databases on Infant and Young Child Feeding
* Interpret with caution, low population coverage
No data for Armenia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Russian Federation

How is data on MDD-C collected?

- Data collected from mother/ caretaker of children 6-23 months of age
- ***Simple yes/ no questions*** that determine whether child has consumed certain foods and beverages

Large scale household surveys as MICS and others have successfully integrated MDD-C questionnaires

BD8. Now I would like to ask you about <u>all foods</u> that (***name***) ate yesterday during the day or the night. Please consider foods consumed outside of your home while answering.

- Think about when (***name***) woke up in the morning yesterday. Did (he/she) eat anything after waking up?
  If 'Yes' ask: Please tell me the names of all foods (***name***) ate at that time. *Probe:* Anything else?
  Record answers using the food groups below.
- What did (***name***) do after that? Did (he/she) eat anything at that time?
  Repeat this string of questions, recording in the food groups, until the respondent tells you that the child went to sleep until the next morning.

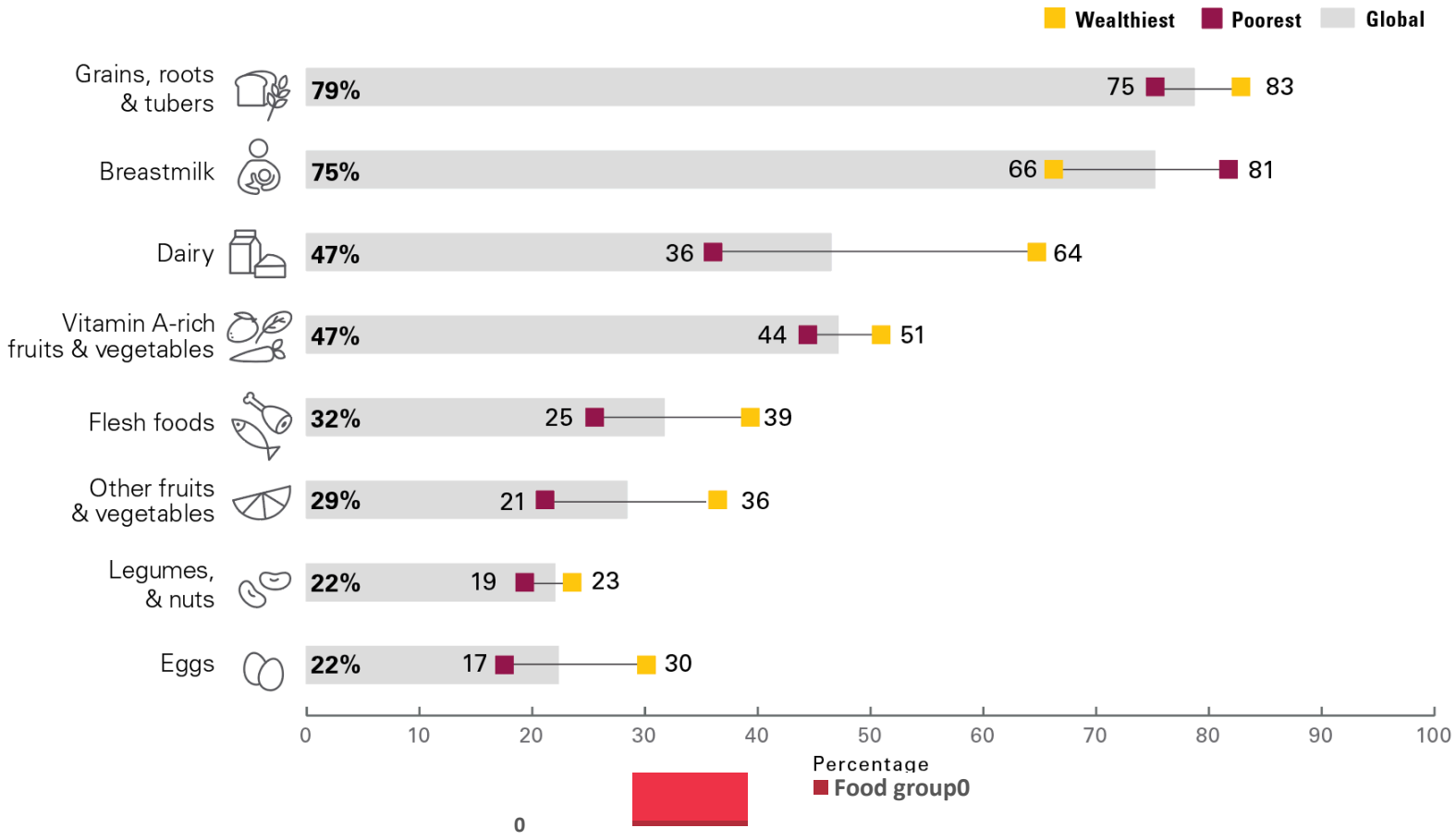
For each food group <u>not</u> mentioned after completing the above ask: Just to make sure, did (***name***) eat (***food group items***) yesterday during the day or the night		YES	NO	DK
[A] Gatig? *Note that liquid/drinking yogurt should be captured in BD7[F].*	GATIG	1	2 ⇨ *BD8[B]*	8 ⇨ *BD8[B]*
[A1] How many times did (***name***) eat gatig? *If 7 or more times, record '7'.*	NUMBER OF TIMES ATE GATIG ..... __ DK 8			
[B] Any baby food made from grains, such as Cerelac, Aqusha, Nestum, Heinz or Hipp?	BABY FOOD	1	2	8
[C] Bread, rice, noodles, porridge, vermicelli, pasta or other foods made from grains?	FOODS MADE FROM GRAINS	1	2	8
[D] Pumpkin, carrots or sweet red peppers?	PUMPKIN, CARROTS, SWEET RED PEPPERS	1	2	8
[E] Potatoes, celery root, turnips or any other foods made from roots that are white or pale inside?	POTATOES, TURNIPS, WHITE/PALE TUBEROUS ROOTS	1	2	8

Unlocking the potential of minimum dietary diversity

Data collected to assess minimum dietary diversity provides *deep insights into what children are eating*.

Data can be disaggregated by:

- Types of food groups consumed – to identify foods lacking from diets of children
- Number of food groups consumed – to identify vulnerable children *not meeting dietary diversity*



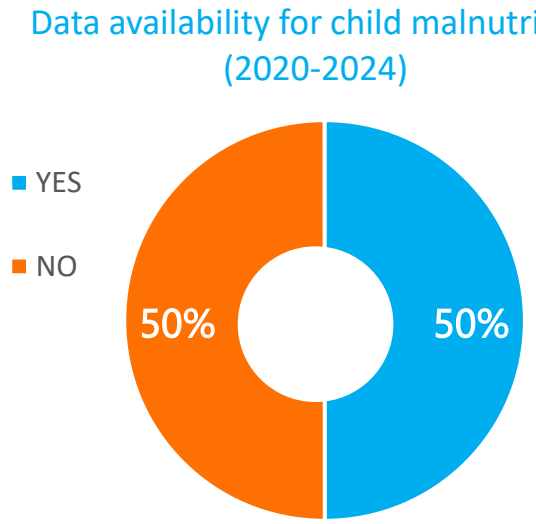
Data Availability for SDG2

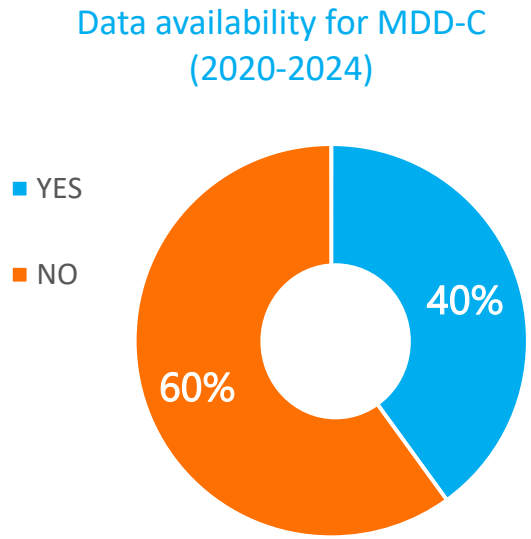
Child malnutrition

- Data available for half of CIS countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan)
- No recent data included for Armenia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation & Turkmenistan

Minimum dietary diversity

- Data available for 40% of the CIS countries (Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan)
- No recent data for Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova & Turkmenistan
- No data for the Russian Federation





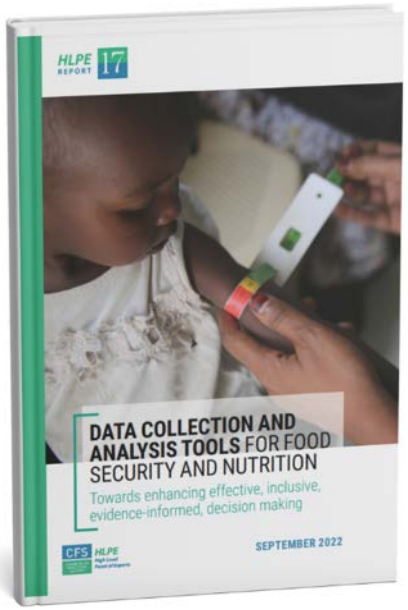
What's next?

UNICEF and FAO to undertake a country consultation on the new SDG around Q3 2025 for 2026 reporting

- **Prepare** background materials
- **Registration** of SDG focal points
- **Consultation** with countries including global webinars and direct communication with country focal points
- **Update** country dataset with sources included from consultation
- **Share** final estimates back to countries.

Food security and nutrition (FSN) data and statistics

Background and Rationale



- Data relevant to inform the FSN policies is **fragmented**
- FSN data is often produced through **non-standardized** methods and with **various level of representativeness, accuracy, periodicity and granularity**

To address these challenges

- The creation of a new statistical domain on FSN was endorsed during UNSC (March 2024)
- Endorsement of the establishment of a United Nations Expert Group on FSN (UN EG-FSN) in March 2025
- Development of guidance on food security and nutrition data and statistics

Guidance note on food security and nutrition statistics

Objectives and Content

Objectives

- ✓ establish an **agreed definition of FSN data**
- ✓ identify a **minimum set of core indicators** to inform the state of FSN
- ✓ provide **recommendations on how to strengthen national FSN data systems** and facilitate the collection, analysis and use of FSN data at national level

Content

I. Background and objectives

II. Minimum set of core indicators to inform the state of FSN

III. Main type of data sources for FSN indicators

IV. Improving national data systems for FSN

Annex 1: Detailed metadata

Annex 2: Expanded list of FSN indicators

Thank you.

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