

U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH Initiative



Richard Nyberg / USAID



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Nutrition

Reduce child undernutrition by 30 percent across assisted food insecure countries, in conjunction with the President's Feed the Future (FTF) initiative.

For 170 million stunted children, chronic undernutrition leaves them vulnerable to disease and permanently impaired, their families impoverished, and their communities less resilient. Undernutrition robs the developing world of critical human capital and capacity and undermines other development investments in health, education, and economic growth. Undernutrition contributes to 2.6 million child deaths each year¹ – more than any disease. It also leads to lower levels of educational attainment, reduced productivity later in life, lower lifetime earnings, and slowed economic growth of nations. Due to these facts, the U.S. Government Nutrition Program is a key component of both Feed the Future (FTF) and the Global Health Initiative (GHI), and both initiatives are working toward the goal of reducing child under-nutrition by 30 percent. Within GHI, nutrition activities cut across all health intervention (HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and child health programs, etc.) and contribute to a range of improved health outcomes.

How is the target measured?

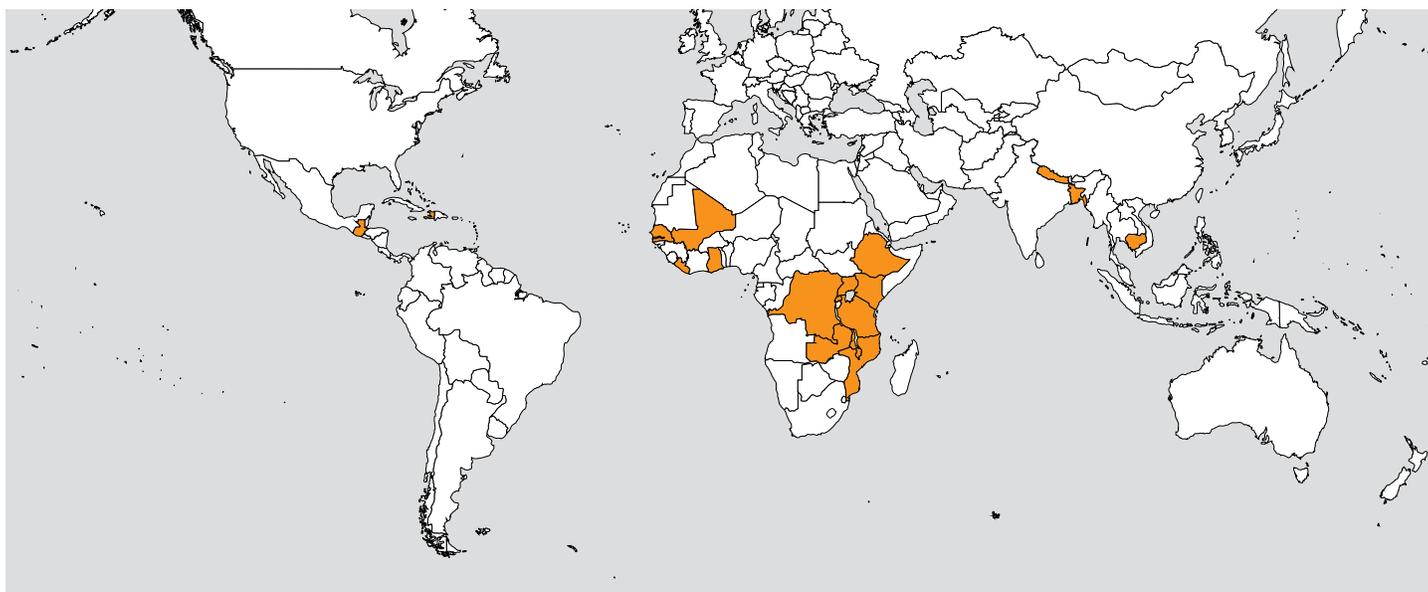
Undernutrition is measured by different indicators in different circumstances. Globally, within countries, and within programs, the indicator used depends on the context including data availability, the population measured and the advocacy, policy or program purpose. All four indicators are collected through Demographic and Health Surveys, which are conducted every five years in the U.S. Government-assisted countries.

- **Percent underweight:** Percent of underweight children is a weight-for-age measurement. Underweight is a reflection of acute and/or chronic undernutrition. This indicator measures the percent of children 0–59 months who are underweight, as defined by a weight for age Z score < -2.
- **Percent stunted:** Stunting is a height-for-age measurement that is a reflection of chronic undernutrition. This indicator measures the percent of children 0–59 months (i.e., under 5 years) who are stunted, as defined by a height for age Z score < -2.
- **Percent women with anemia:** Anemia is measured by hemoglobin concentration in the blood and, for this indicator, is collected among women of reproductive age (15–49 years). Non-pregnant women (NPW) with a hemoglobin concentration less than 12 g/dl and pregnant women (PW) with a hemoglobin concentration less than 11 g/dl are classified as anemic.
- **Percent children with any anemia:** Anemia is measured by hemoglobin concentration in the blood and, for this indicator, is collected among children 6–59 months. Children with a hemoglobin concentration less than 11 g/dl are classified as anemic.

What are the U.S. Government-supported countries?

Countries receive funding based, in part, on an analysis of need (both the severity of the health problem and the number of people affected by the health problem) and the U.S. Government's ability to affect health programs.

GHI COUNTRY PROGRAMS BY ELEMENT - NUTRITION



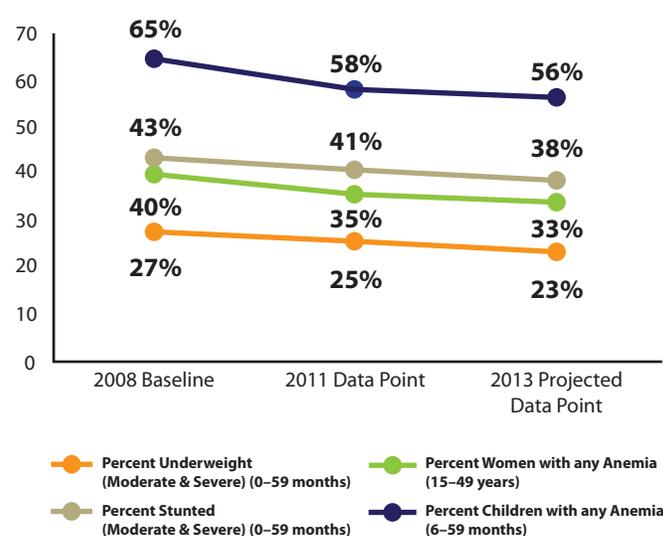
Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
East Asia and Pacific: Cambodia **South Asia and Central Asia:** Bangladesh, Nepal **Western Hemisphere:** Guatemala, Haiti

What are the results?

While most of the GHI targets have a baseline of 2008, the nutrition target has a baseline of 2010 in line with Feed the Future (FTF). Recent results from Demographic and Health Surveys have shown an annual rate of reduction in underweight children of 3 percent and child stunting of around 2 percent. This represents a change in national level data across the 17 focus countries for nutrition. GHI and FTF assisted countries reached more than 10 million children with nutrition programs in FY 2011.

Indicator	2008 Baseline	2011 Data Point	2013 Projected Data Point
Nutrition			
Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	27.0%	25.0%	23.0%
Prevalence of stunted children under 5 years of age	43.0%	41.0%	38.0%
Prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age	40.0%	35.0%	34.0%
Prevalence of anemia among children 6-59 months	65.0%	58%	57.0%

Projected Reductions in Under-Nutrition



Source: Demographic and Health Surveys, based on calendar year.