



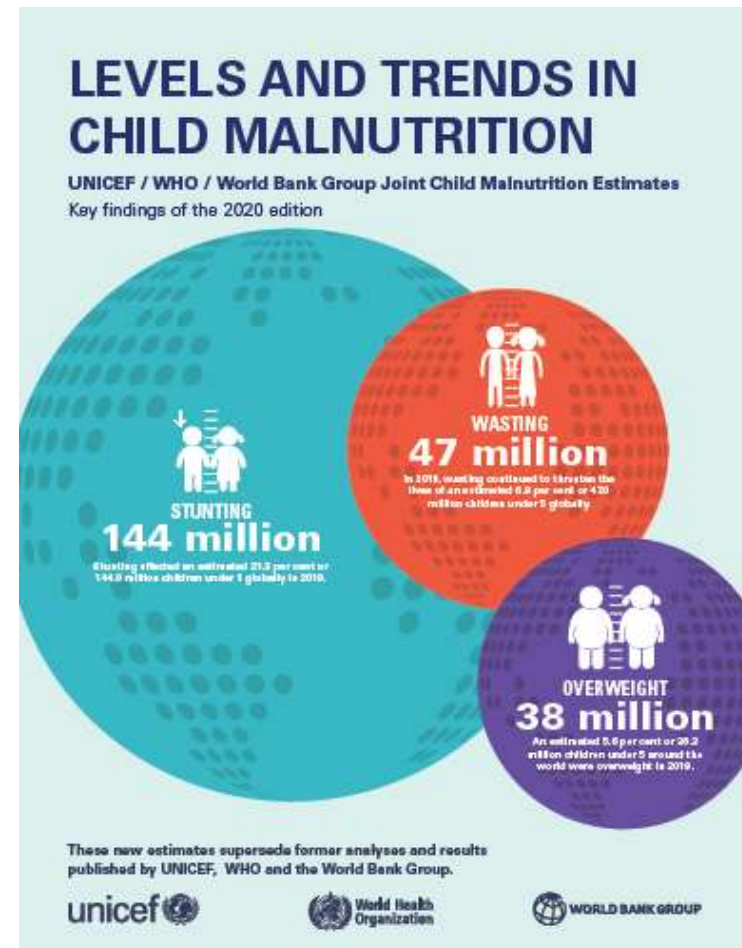
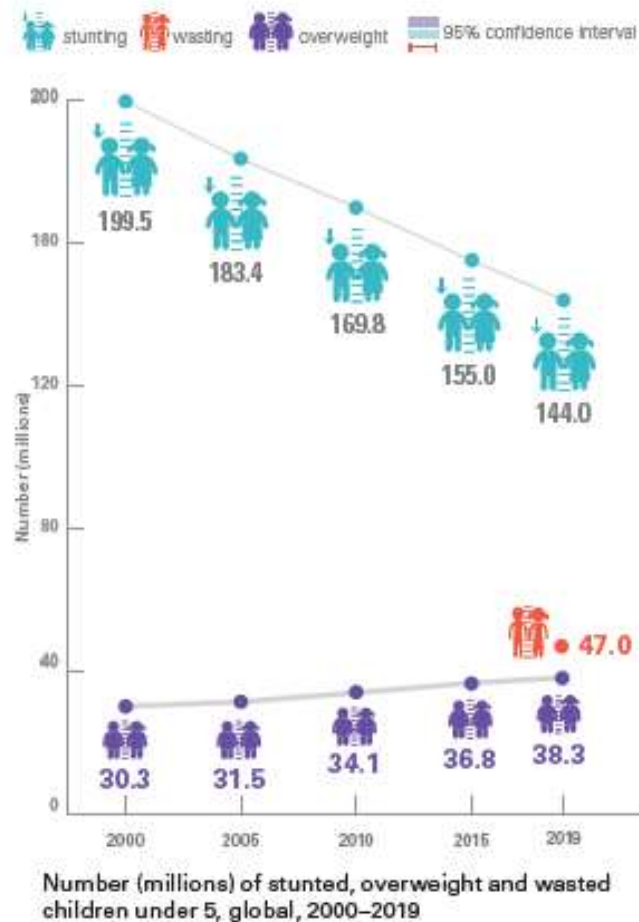
Child malnutrition and COVID-19

The time to act is now

Victor Aguayo, PhD

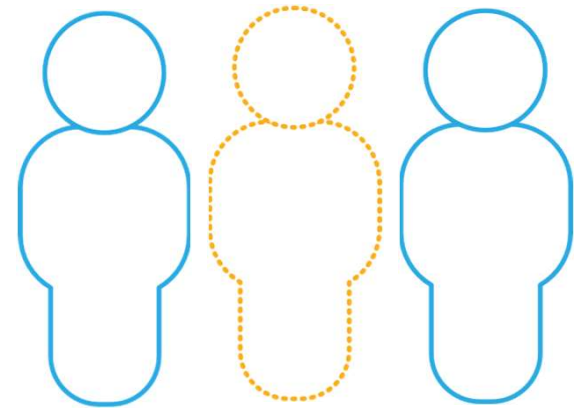
unicef 

Double burden of child malnutrition

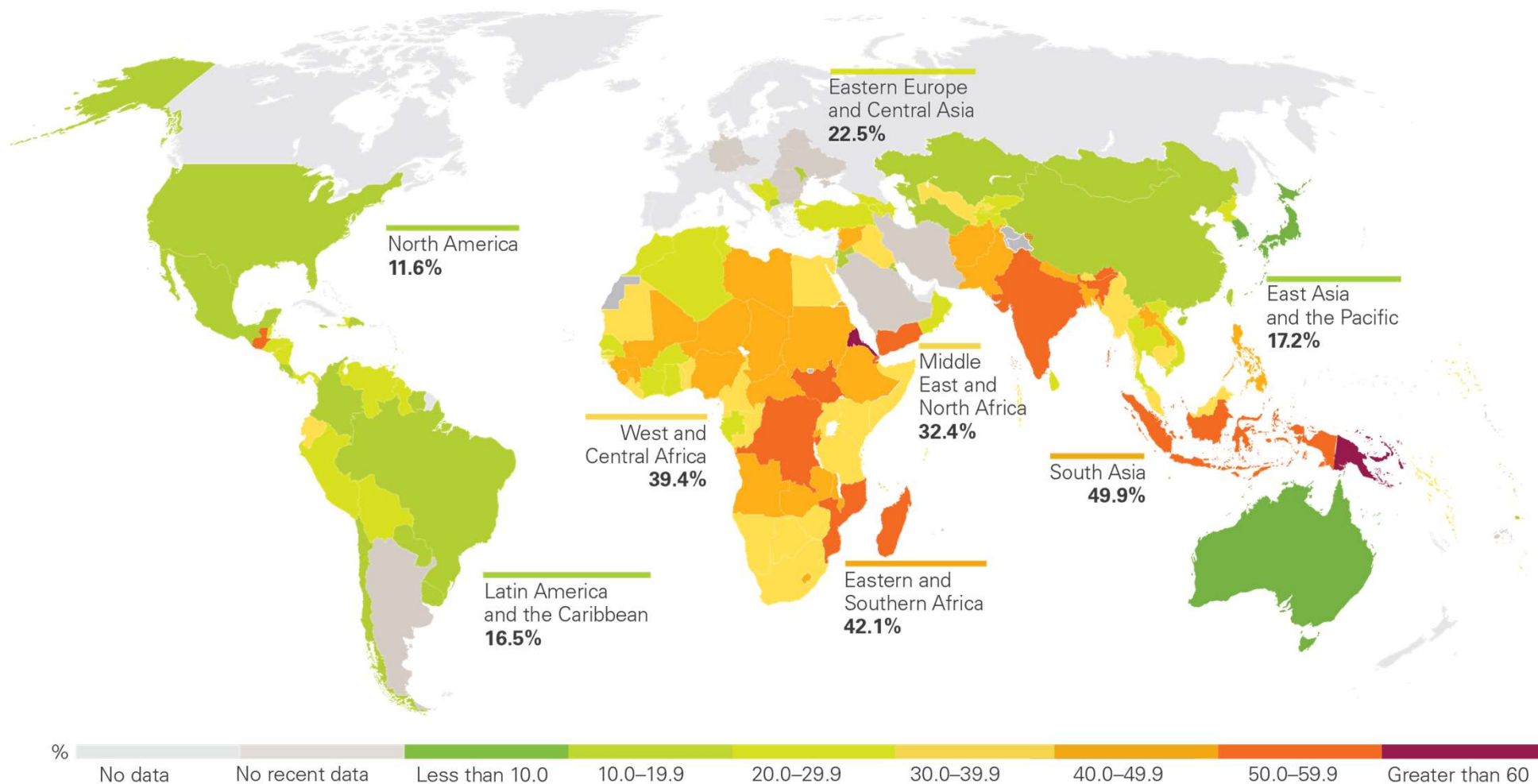


Proportion of children not growing well

1 in 3 children
is not growing well
(stunted, wasted, or overweight)



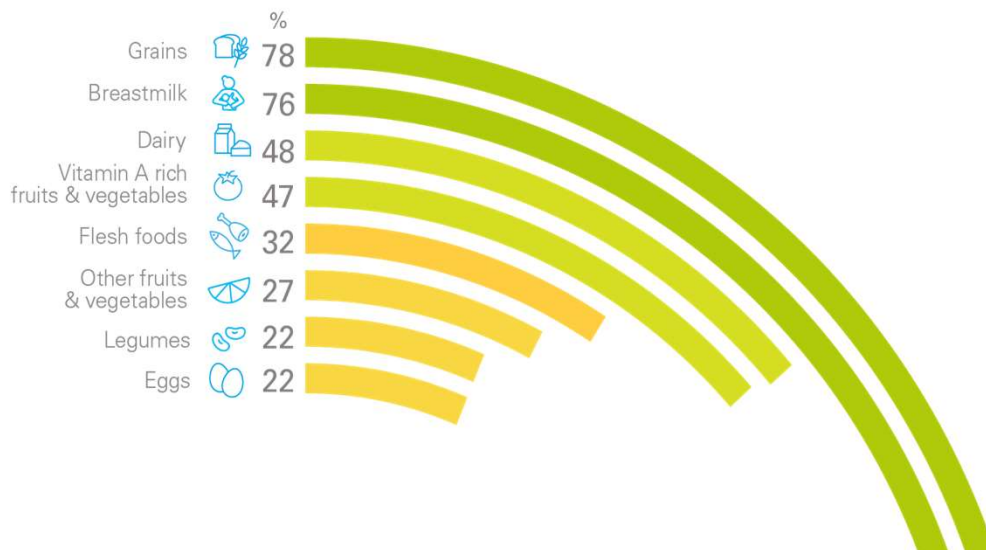
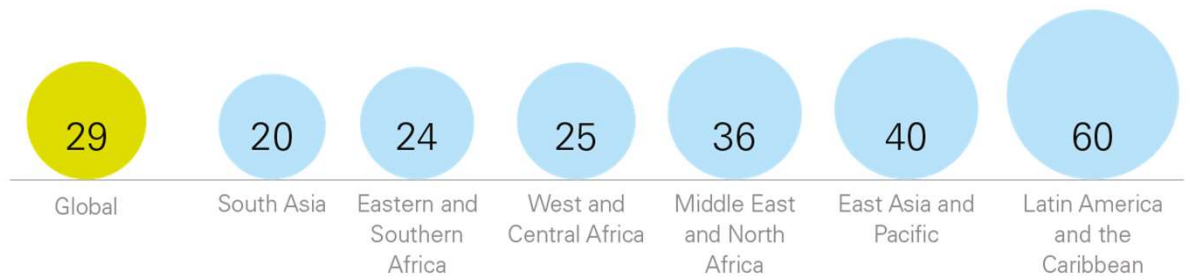
Proportion of children not growing well



Two in three children are not fed a minimum adequate diet



Fewer than **1 in 3 children** eats foods from the minimum number of food groups

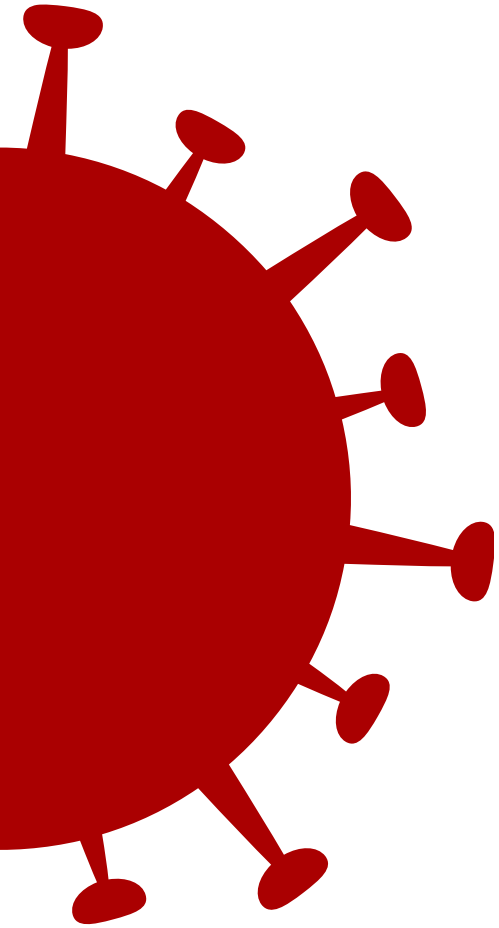


59% of children worldwide are not being fed much-needed nutrients from animal source foods.



44% of children worldwide are not fed any fruits or vegetables.

COVID-19 will worsen this situation



- Physical distancing
- School closures
- Trade restrictions
- Country lockdowns
- Disrupted services
- Halted humanitarian response
- Unemployment
- Poverty

ZERO HUNGER?



Impacts of COVID-19 on childhood malnutrition

Impacts of COVID-19 on childhood malnutrition and nutrition-related mortality



The unprecedented global social and economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic poses grave risks to the nutritional status and survival of young children in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs). Of particular concern is an expected increase in child

economic and health systems impacts from COVID-19 on malnutrition and mortality: MIRAGRODEP's macro-economic projections of impacts on per capita gross national income (GNI);⁴ microeconomic estimates of how predicted GNI shocks impact child wasting using

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)31648-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31648-2)

- Number of children wasted ↑ 14.3%
- 6.7 million (additional) children wasted
- During the first 12 months of the pandemic

The time to act is now!

Child malnutrition and COVID-19: the time to act is now



The COVID-19 pandemic is undermining nutrition across the world, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs).¹ The worst consequences are borne by young children. Some of the strategies to respond to COVID-19—including physical distancing,

four life-saving interventions: prevention of wasting in children at risk; treatment for children who are wasted; biannual vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6–59 months (90% coverage); and mass communication for the protection, promotion, and support of breast-

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- UNICEF
- FAO
- WFP
- WHO



1

Protect, promote and support access to nutritious, safe, and affordable diets as a cornerstone of the response to COVID-19

2

Maintain school meals for vulnerable children through home delivery, take-home rations, and cash/vouchers while schools are closed



3

Prioritize nutrition through pregnancy and early childhood, protect breastfeeding, and prevent marketing of infant formula

4

Reactivate and scale up services for the early detection and treatment of child wasting while expanding other nutrition services



5

Scale up social protection programmes to safeguard access to nutritious diets and essential services among the poorest households.

Juntos, debemos
evitar que la
COVID-19 deje
un legado de
hambre y
desnutrición en
la infancia.



Gracias

We must deny
the COVID-19
crisis a legacy of
hunger and
malnutrition in
children.



Thank you