**EU Results Framework Indicator methodology note**

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| 1. Name of indicator | **Prevalence of stunting (moderate and severe) in children aged below five years.** |
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| 2. Which sector | Nutrition |
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| 3. Technical Definition | The indicator should be read as "Percentage of children aged 0 to 59 months who are stunted", i.e. the number of children aged 0 to 59 months who are stunted divided by the overall number of children between 0 and 59 months alive.  Two "degrees" of stunting apply:  (1) Severely stunted: Number of children whose height for age z-score is less than -3.0 standard deviations (SD) below the median of the WHO 2006 Child Growth Standards.  (2) Moderately stunted: Number of children whose height for age z-score is is less than -2.0 but still greater or equal to -3.0 standard deviations (SD) below the median of the WHO 2006 Child Growth Standards.  The WHO 2006 Child Growth Standards were developed using data collected in the WHO Multicentre Growth Reference Study (MGRS), which was undertaken between 1997 and 2003 to generate growth curves for assessing the growth and development of infants and young children around the world. The MGRS collected primary growth data and related information from approximately 8500 children from widely different ethnic backgrounds and cultural settings (Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and the USA). (<http://www.who.int/childgrowth/mgrs/en/>). For children under 24 months the standard is based on children whose height was taken while prone (horizontal). For children 24 months and older height was measured while they were standing. For children 24 months of age or over, whose height was measured while lying down, though not recommended, 0.8 centimetre should be subtracted from their measured height before calculating the z-scores.  Sources:  <http://www.who.int/childgrowth/en/>  *WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition*. <http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/en/>.  *DHS Statistics Live* (<http://legacy.measuredhs.com/help/Datasets/index.htm>) |
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| 4. Rationale | The prevalence of stunting is an internationally-accepted indicator for chronic undernutrition.  The indicator speaks directly to the **EU’s commitment** to support partner countries in reducing the number of stunted children under the age of 5 by 7 million by 2025 (Commitment made by the EU Commissioner for International Development and Cooperation during the 2012 Hunger Event in London and one of the two objectives of the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Enhancing Maternal and Child Nutrition in External Assistance: an EU Policy Framework (COM/2013/141); (2013)).  The European Commission Nutrition Action Plan (2014) describes the measures to be implemented to achieve the 7 million reduction target. |
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| 5. Level of disaggregation | N/A |
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| 6. Data Sources | The WHO, Unicef and World Bank publish annual harmonized joint child malnutrition estimates, including stunting - see (http://data.worldbank.org/child-malnutrition  This source should be used to monitor this indicator. |
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| 7. Data calculation (including any assumptions made) | To be calculated by:  a) taking the latest available stunting prevalence (%) for each country *where the EU has external action programmes* from the WHO, Unicef and World Bank database;  b) multiplying this number (a) by the number of children aged 0 to 59 months in that same year for each country. This data (based on ESA statistics) is also included in the WHO, Unicef, World Bank database.  c) adding the above numbers (b) for all the countries in which we operate together. This will give the **first** element for a weighted average of prevalence of stunting.  d) adding together the children aged 0 to 59 months populations of all the countries we work in. This will give the **second** element for a weighted average of prevalence of stunting.  e) dividing the first element (c) by the second element (d). This will give the weighted average prevalence of stunting for children aged 0 to 59 months. |
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| 8. Worked examples\*  Examples correct at the time of writing (Feb 2015) | **Afghanistan :** Proportion of children aged below five years who are stunted = 59.4% - 2004 (latest available data)  **Bangladesh:** Proportion of children aged below five years who are stunted = 41.4% - 2011 (latest available data)  2004 Proportion of children aged below five years **Afghanistan** = 4,780,161  2011 Proportion of children aged below five years **Bangladesh** = 15,223,979  Weighted average of children aged below five years who are stunted for Afghanistan and Bangladesh:  (0.594\*4,780,161 + 0.414\*15,223,979)/ (4,780,161+ 15,223,979) = 45.7% |
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| 9. Is it used by another organization or in the framework of international initiatives, conventions, etc? If so, which? | Stunting is the first of 6 global targets endorsed by WHO’s member states in 2012: “40% reduction in the number of children under-5 who are stunted”.  The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (**CAADP**) Framework for African Food Security (2009) identifies stunting as a key indicator for countries to assess progress under Pillar III – ‘Increasing food supply, reducing hunger and improving responses to food emergency crises’ http://www.caadp.net/sites/default/files/documents/Resources/CAADP-guides-and-technical/CAADP%20Pillar%20III%20Framework%20for%20African%20Food%20Security\_2009.pdf  The ***Nutrition for Growth*** *Compact* of 2013 stipulates as one of the three primary commitments of signatories that they will “reduce the number of children under five stunted by at least 20 million” by the year 2020. Stunting is also seen as integral to achieving the third commitment ‘to save the lives of at least 1.7 million children under 5’. <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/248760/Endorserscompact_update7_10_2013.pdf>  The N4G Follow-up Group will commission, at least biennially, a Global Report on Nutrition, in collaboration with the SUN Lead Group and relevant UN agencies. Stunting will be an integral indicator to this report. |
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| 10.Other issues | The EC’s plans to strengthen national information and analysis on nutrition – through National Information Platforms on Nutrition (NiPN) will further bolster existing efforts and help to fill critical gaps in data – including in estimates of stunting prevalence. |