

# Improved child malnutrition estimates



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## Nutrition – the country-level model

### PROBLEM

Country-level estimates of child malnutrition (e.g. stunting and overweight) are often available too infrequently or have methodological differences (e.g. sampling) over time, which can make it difficult to track trends.

Furthermore, the current method used to generate global and regional estimates does not allow for easy aggregation of different regional groupings (e.g. Latin America and Caribbean for UNICEF region vs SDG region) while also yielding unexpectedly different results for the same or similar regions (e.g. overweight trajectories going in different directions) in some cases.

### SOLUTION

Development of a country-level model for stunting and overweight would provide annual estimates for all countries and allow for apples-to-apples comparisons of levels and trends across countries, despite gaps and inconsistencies in primary data. Availability of country-level model outputs for stunting and overweight can also provide a simpler and more harmonized approach for generation of global and regional estimates over time across all regional groupings (e.g. SDG regions vs UNICEF regions vs United Nations regions).

The model parameters and outputs were shared through a global consultation in 2019, including national counterparts and SDG focal points from various regions. The models will be finalized in 2020 with input received during the consultation and the new model will be used for the UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates for stunting and overweight from 2021 onwards, following in depth country consultations to be held in 2020.

