

Table 12 Nutritional status of children

Percentage of children under age 5 classified as malnourished according to three anthropometric indices of nutritional status: height-for-age, weight-for-height, and weight-for-age, by background characteristics, Rwanda 2014-15

Background characteristic	Height-for-age			Weight-for-height				Weight-for-age				Number of children
	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Mean Z-score (SD)	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage above +2 SD	Mean Z-score (SD)	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage above +2 SD	Mean Z-score (SD)	
<b>Age in months</b>												
<6	3.7	10.5	-0.5	1.7	5.4	18.3	0.7	1.4	4.3	4.2	0.1	331
6-8	8.8	18.2	-0.7	1.1	4.5	11.0	0.3	2.6	9.0	2.4	-0.3	214
9-11	7.6	21.3	-1.0	1.5	3.8	10.6	0.4	1.6	9.1	0.9	-0.3	214
12-17	16.1	41.6	-1.6	0.8	3.8	9.2	0.4	2.9	11.4	0.6	-0.5	402
18-23	15.2	49.4	-1.8	0.4	2.6	7.2	0.3	2.0	9.2	1.1	-0.7	365
24-35	18.5	47.1	-1.9	0.5	1.3	7.1	0.5	2.4	11.3	0.8	-0.7	797
36-47	13.8	42.7	-1.8	0.0	0.7	5.7	0.5	1.2	7.9	0.5	-0.7	831
48-59	12.7	37.4	-1.7	0.4	1.2	2.9	0.3	3.3	10.3	0.5	-0.8	657
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	15.6	42.7	-1.7	0.9	2.4	8.1	0.5	2.8	9.3	1.1	-0.6	1,924
Female	11.3	32.9	-1.4	0.3	2.0	7.3	0.4	1.6	9.3	1.0	-0.5	1,889
<b>Mother's interview status</b>												
Interviewed	13.1	37.8	-1.6	0.6	2.3	7.9	0.4	2.1	9.1	1.1	-0.6	3,550
Not interviewed, but in household	(10.7)	29.3	-1.6	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.4	3.6	6.7	0.0	-0.6	30
Not interviewed, not in household <sup>3</sup>	20.0	40.5	-1.7	0.0	1.6	4.0	0.4	4.1	13.0	1.0	-0.7	232
<b>Residence</b>												
Urban	7.0	23.7	-1.0	0.6	1.8	10.9	0.5	1.6	5.9	2.9	-0.2	612
Rural	14.7	40.6	-1.7	0.6	2.3	7.1	0.4	2.3	10.0	0.7	-0.7	3,200
<b>Region</b>												
Kigali City	5.2	22.7	-0.9	0.7	2.3	9.9	0.5	1.9	5.3	2.8	-0.2	419
South	13.9	40.5	-1.6	0.3	2.4	6.8	0.4	2.3	10.5	0.9	-0.6	910
West	18.6	44.9	-1.8	0.7	2.3	7.6	0.4	2.7	10.1	0.9	-0.7	894
North	13.3	39.2	-1.6	0.1	1.8	9.7	0.6	1.7	9.3	0.7	-0.5	541
East	12.1	34.8	-1.5	0.9	2.2	6.7	0.4	2.1	9.2	0.8	-0.6	1,049
<b>Mother's education</b>												
No education	17.9	47.0	-1.9	0.9	3.0	7.3	0.5	3.4	11.7	0.8	-0.8	530
Primary	13.2	39.1	-1.6	0.5	2.1	7.7	0.4	2.0	9.2	0.7	-0.6	2,589
Secondary +	6.4	19.3	-0.8	1.0	2.3	10.1	0.5	1.1	5.6	3.2	-0.1	462
<b>Wealth quintile</b>												
Lowest	19.2	48.6	-1.9	0.5	2.3	6.9	0.4	3.1	13.2	0.7	-0.8	959
Second	16.3	44.7	-1.8	0.7	2.2	7.2	0.4	2.6	12.1	0.5	-0.8	829
Middle	13.6	37.5	-1.6	0.6	2.9	6.1	0.4	2.5	8.3	0.1	-0.6	740
Fourth	8.8	30.2	-1.4	0.3	1.8	8.7	0.5	1.6	6.8	1.3	-0.4	650
Highest	5.7	20.9	-0.9	0.7	1.8	10.3	0.5	0.8	3.4	3.2	-0.1	633
<b>Total</b>	13.5	37.9	-1.6	0.6	2.2	7.7	0.4	2.2	9.3	1.1	-0.6	3,813

Note: Table is based on children who stayed in the household the night before the interview. Each of the indices is expressed in standard deviation units (SD) from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards adopted in 2006. The indices in this table are NOT comparable to those based on the previously used 1977 NCHS/CDC/WHO reference. Table is based on children with valid dates of birth (month and year) and valid measurement of both height and weight.

<sup>1</sup> Recumbent length is measured for children under age 2 or in the few cases when the age of the child is unknown and the child is less than 85 cm; standing height is measured for all other children.

<sup>2</sup> Includes children who are below -3 standard deviations (SD) from the WHO Growth Standards population median.

<sup>3</sup> Includes children whose mothers are deceased

<sup>4</sup> For women who are not interviewed, information is taken from the Household Questionnaire. Excludes children whose mothers are not listed in the Household Questionnaire.

Figure 5 shows that the percentage of children underweight increases steadily from 4 percent among children under age 6 months to 9 percent among children 6-11 months and 11 percent among children age 12-17 months. This may be due to inappropriate and/or inadequate feeding practices.