



2026 Global Report Guidance: Appendix Submission Process

Purpose of Process

The appendix of the annual Lancet Countdown report is a crucial component of the overall report. With tight word counts in the main text, the appendix is where our methodologies, data sources, and extra analyses are presented.

Regional centre authors and members of the media (e.g., Financial Times, Economist) are increasingly diving into the details of the appendix. In doing so, we have received feedback that the document is hard to navigate, and that the indicator methodologies are sometimes unclear or outdated.

For the 2026 global report of the Lancet Countdown, we are therefore putting in place a process to ensure that the appendix is accurate, accessible, and up-to-date.

To minimise the load on authors, we are also using this process to collect information on any planned updates to indicators, thereby bypassing the need for written proposal for indicator improvement, in the case of minor changes. Any large-scale changes to indicators should be raised with WG Leads and Fellows in advance and [submitted for review using the online form](#) for external assessment, which is required for all major changes and new indicators.

Process

19 December 2025: WG Fellows to share feedback on 2025 appendix with authors

The WG Fellows will share an annotated appendix with their WG authors. This will highlight major changes needed, as identified by the WG Leads, WG Fellows, and the Global Secretariat team.



30 January 2026: Authors submit appendix sections to WG Fellows

Reviewing the feedback shared and in line with the guidance below (see “Annotated Appendix Section”), authors will update their appendix section. The text should reflect plans for their indicator in the 2026 report. At this time, authors do not need to complete the “Additional Analysis” section, and references should be included in comments.

Once they have completed their updates, authors should send their sections to WG Fellows by the 30th of January.

4 February 2026: WG Fellows submit appendix sections to Global Secretariat

WG fellows will review the new appendix text and request any further information to the authors. They will then submit a single document containing the full WG appendix to Maria Walawender, flagging any changes expected to existing indicators.

15 February 2026: Global Secretariat reviews appendix submissions and returns to WG leads and authors.

The Global Secretariat Fellows and Executive Director will review the appendix submissions and might request further changes or clarifications. They will also evaluate all proposed changes for the 2026 report and ensure that authors have filled out white papers for any large changes that require external review.

Authors address feedback and prepare appendix for resubmission

The Global Secretariat Fellows will send comments back to WG Fellows for them to communicate and work through with authorship groups. Comments should be addressed when authorship groups send in their initial submissions of the report text and data. At this time, authors should include all sections of the appendix, including the “Additional Analysis” section.

Overall Notes for Appendix Drafting:

- Appendix section text can be recycled from one year to the next without self-plagiarism, as long as the appendix mentions that some text has been taken from a previous report. This has been confirmed with *The Lancet*.
- Appendix sections should be written in past tense.
- Technical explanations in the appendix do not need to be fully accessible to a non-scientific audience. However, with media increasingly going into the appendix, everything should be well-labeled and clear, and if another scientist in the field reads the methods section, they should be able to understand it and replicate the methodology.
- If you want to use a data source that is different from one listed in the Lancet Countdown’s preferred data sources, this should be discussed with the WG Lead and Fellow and explained in the appendix.
- The appendix should not contain tables of data. This information should be contained in the submitted data files.



ANNOTATED APPENDIX TEMPLATE

Indicator X.X.X: Indicator Name

Indicator Authors

List the names and titles (Prof, Dr) of contributing authors, with one name per line.

Methods

The method for generating the indicator should be explained in detail. This should include details on data collection and access, models used, statistical tests run, etc. Information on how underlying or input datasets were generated can be mentioned but should not be explained in full.

Do not include phrases like “see 2024 report for full details;” all details should be reported directly in this section to prevent the need for going back to previous reports.

This section does not need to be accessible to a non-scientific audience. However, if another scientist in your field reads this section, they should be able to understand it and replicate the methods.

Updates Introduced for 2026

This section is new for the 2026 report cycle and should clearly state any changes made to the indicator from its form in the 2025 report. This should include large-scale updates (which should have already been raised with WG leads and submitted for external assessment) and updates to input data or data bases, tweaks to models, changes to parameters, etc.

If the results of the indicator look noticeably different from those of the 2025 report, this should be explained here.

Data

After any necessary overall description, list data sources in bullets (as below). For data sources regularly updated, include the year of the version that you are using.

Please note if there has been any transformation of the data (e.g., interpolation). If using a data source for a certain variable that is different from the Lancet Countdown’s preferred data source for that variable, please explain why.

- Data source 1
- Data source 2
- Data source 3



Caveats and Limitations

Things that would be listed as “limitations” in a peer-reviewed publication should be listed here. This can include shortcomings of the available data sources, constraints of the methodology, limits to generalizability, etc.

If the indicator does not perform well in certain regions, this should be made clear here.

Future form of the indicator

If applicable, you can mention improvements to the indicator that you hope to make in coming years. If possible, mention the work needed to make these changes and/or general timings for these improvements.

Additional analysis

Include here findings from analysis that did not make it into the main text. This can include additional global findings; findings by HDI group, Lancet Countdown region, or WHO region; additional figures, maps, or tables; etc.

Every figure, map, or table included here must be explained and referenced in text. Authors should take care to include only those that compliment the overall narrative of the indicator. While there may be exceptions, authors should consider including no more than 5 figures, maps, or tables in this section.