

Central America

Overview

Malnutrition status

In the Central America subregion, there has been some progress towards achieving global nutrition targets. The global target for under-five wasting has 4 countries on course to meet it. The targets for under-five overweight, under-five stunting, and infant exclusive breastfeeding each have 3 countries on course. However, not a single country in the Central America subregion is on course for anaemia in women of reproductive age, low birth weight, male diabetes, female diabetes, male obesity, and female obesity. 4 countries in the subregion have insufficient data to comprehensively assess their progress towards these global targets.

Although it performs relatively well against other subregions, Central America still experiences a malnutrition burden among its under-five population. The average prevalence of overweight in under-fives is 6.9% - the lowest compared to other subregions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The prevalence of stunting in under-fives is 12.9%, this is less than the global average of 21.9%. the Central America subregion's prevalence of wasting in under-fives of 0.9% is also less than the global average of 7.3%.

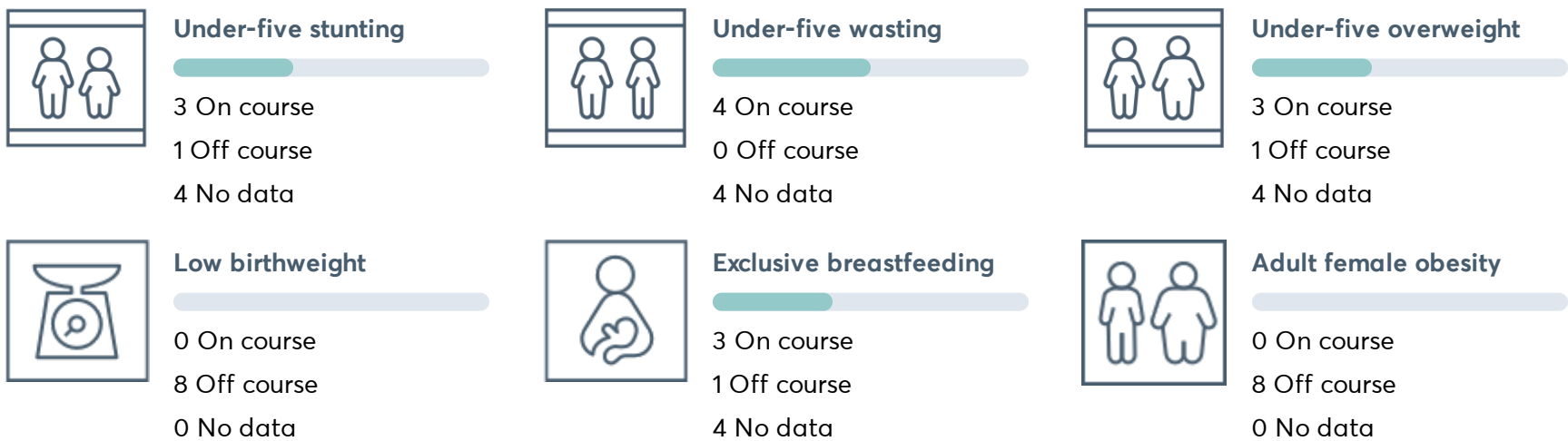
Some 33.9% of infants under 23 months in the Central America subregion are exclusively breastfed, while the subregion's average low birth weight prevalence of 8.7% is less than the global average of 14.6%.

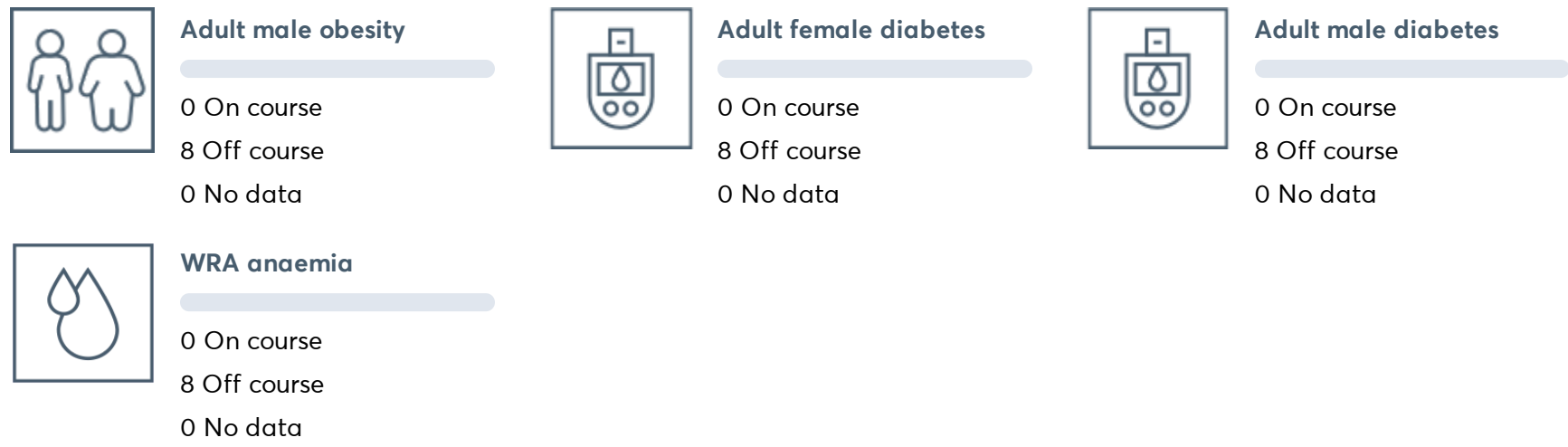
The Central America subregion's adult population also face a malnutrition burden. An average of 15.5% of women of reproductive age have anaemia, and 11.2% of adult women suffer from diabetes, compared to 10.3% of men. Meanwhile, 31.4% of women and 22.2% of men suffer from obesity.

Sources: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group: Joint child malnutrition estimates, UNICEF/WHO Low birthweight estimates, NCD Risk Factor Collaboration, WHO Global Health Observatory.

Notes: Data on the adult indicators are based on modelled estimates.

Progress against global nutrition targets 2018



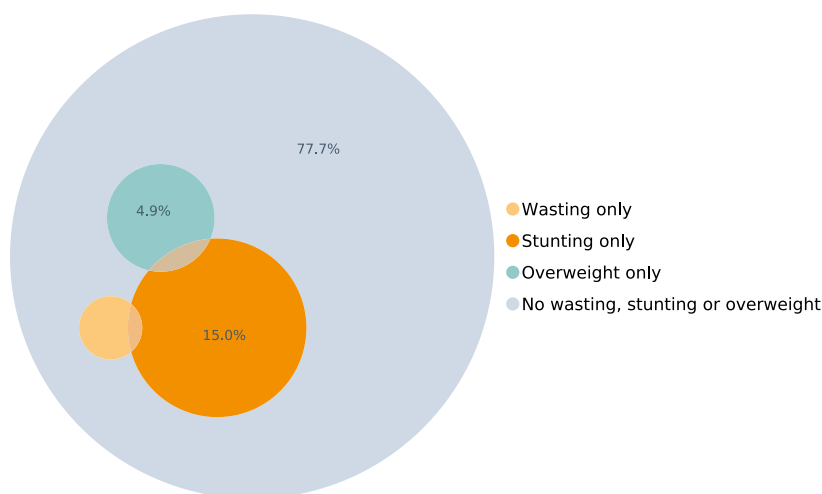


Sources: UNICEF global databases Infant and Young Child Feeding, UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group: Joint child malnutrition estimates, NCD Risk Factor Collaboration, WHO Global Health Observatory and Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

Notes: WRA = Women of a reproductive age; NA = not applicable. The methodologies for tracking differ between targets. Data on the adult indicators are based on modelled estimates.

Child (under-five) nutrition status over time

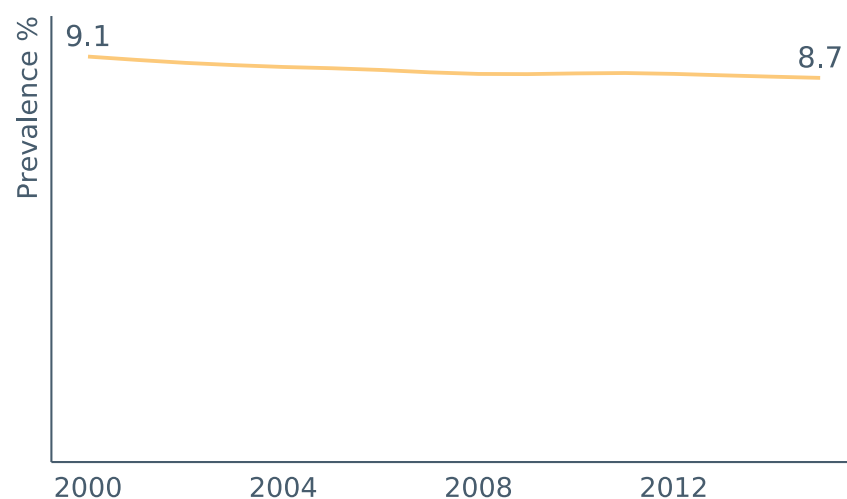
Coexistence of wasting, stunting and overweight



Sources: UNICEF, Division of Data Research and Policy (2019). UNICEF Global Databases: Overlapping Stunting, Wasting and Overweight, January 2019, New York.

Notes: Percentage of children under-five years of age who experience different and overlapping forms of malnutrition. Based on population weighted means of 7 countries.

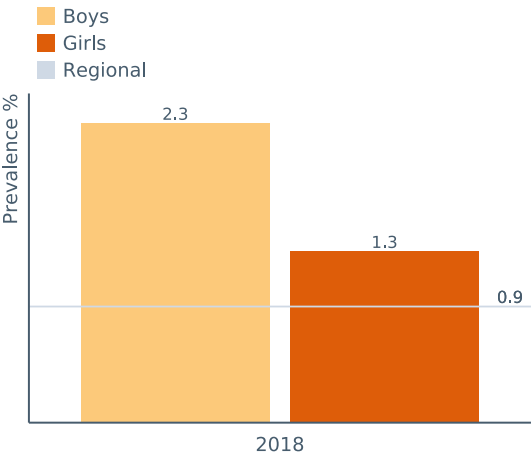
Low birth weight



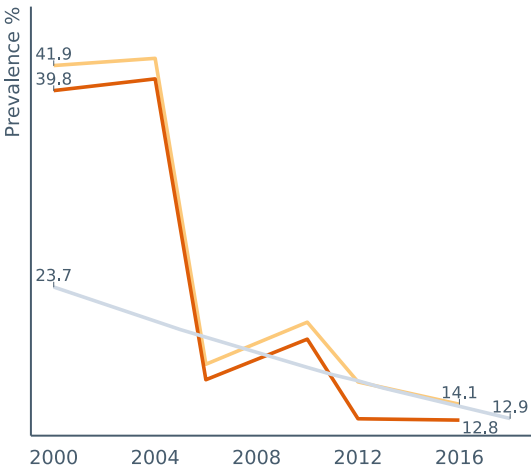
Source: UNICEF/WHO Low birthweight estimates, 2019 edition.

Child (under-five) nutrition status

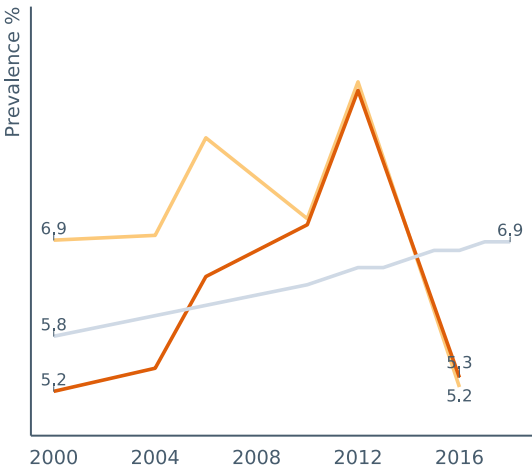
Wasting by gender



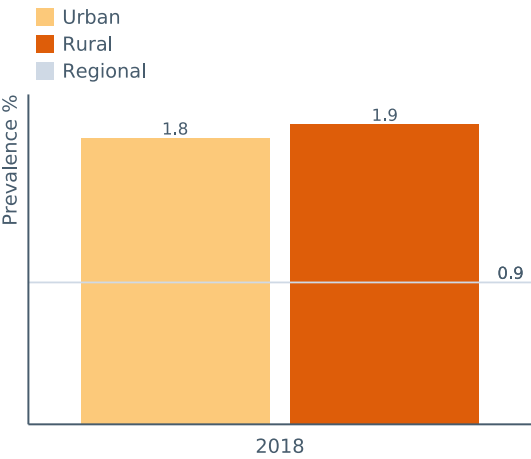
Stunting by gender



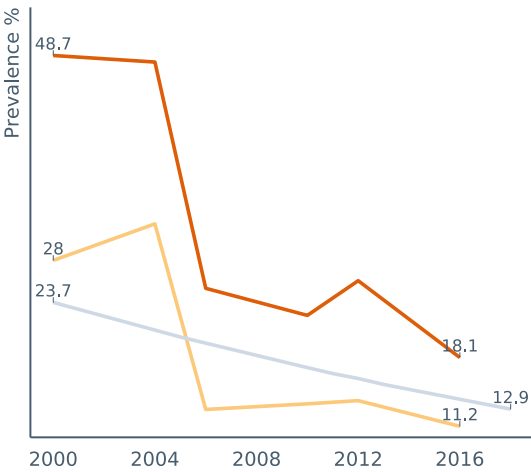
Overweight by gender



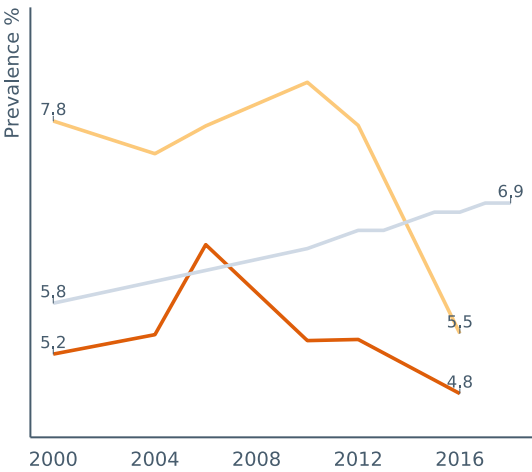
Wasting by location



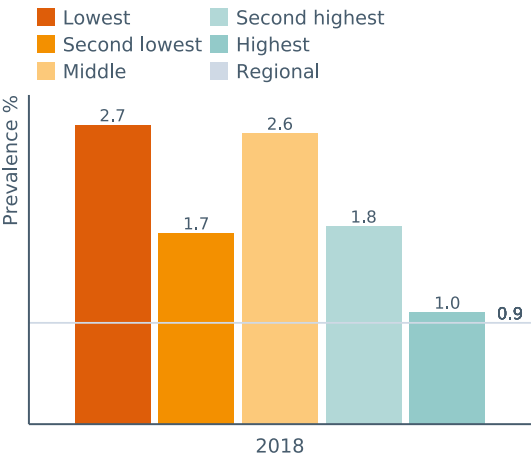
Stunting by location



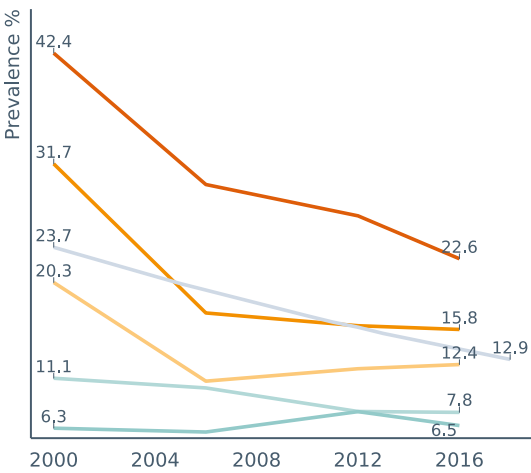
Overweight by location



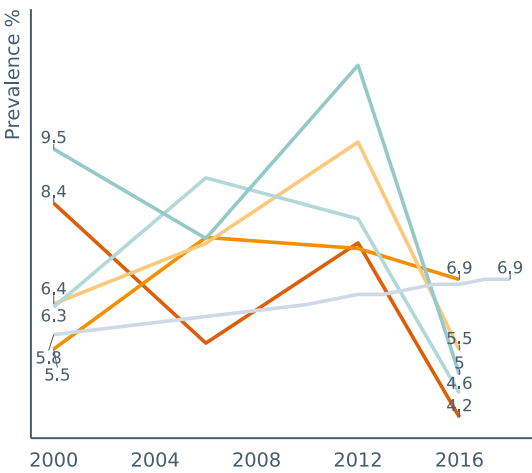
Wasting by income



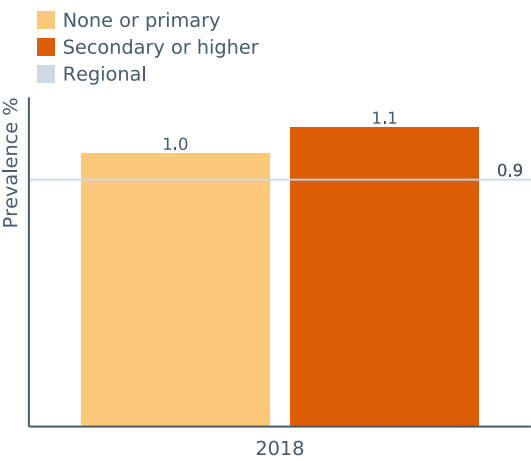
Stunting by income



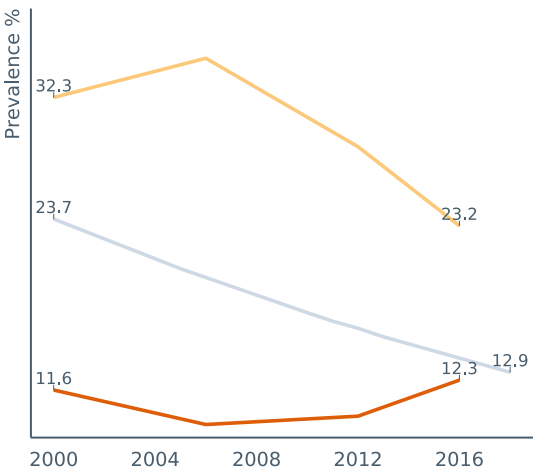
Overweight by income



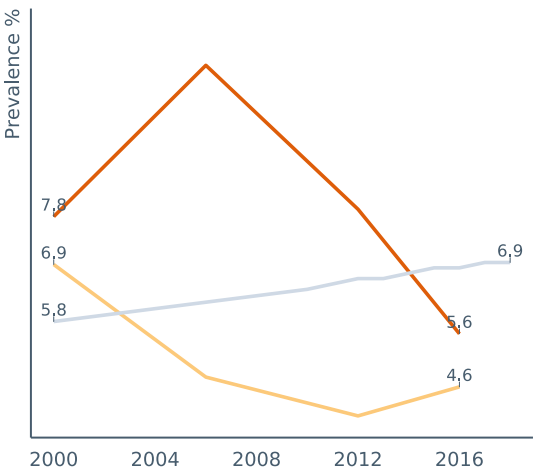
Wasting by education



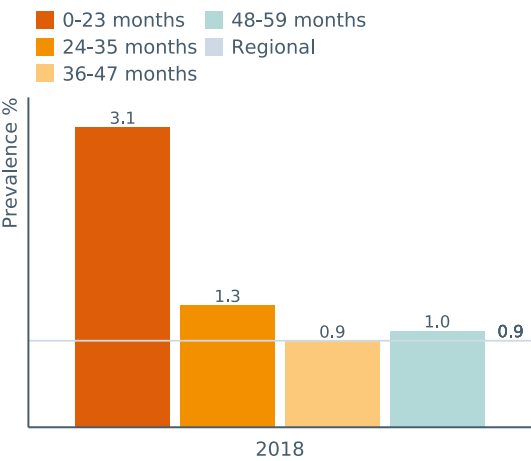
Stunting by education



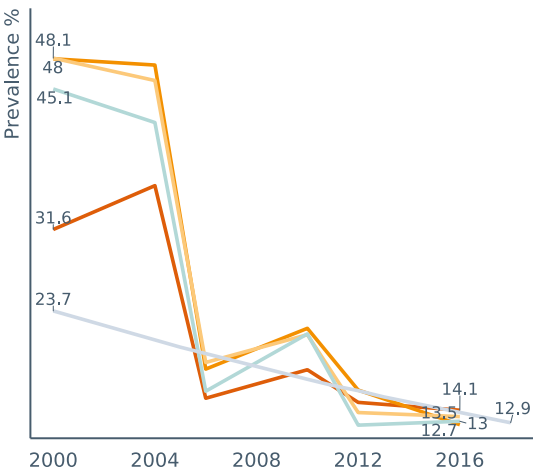
Overweight by education



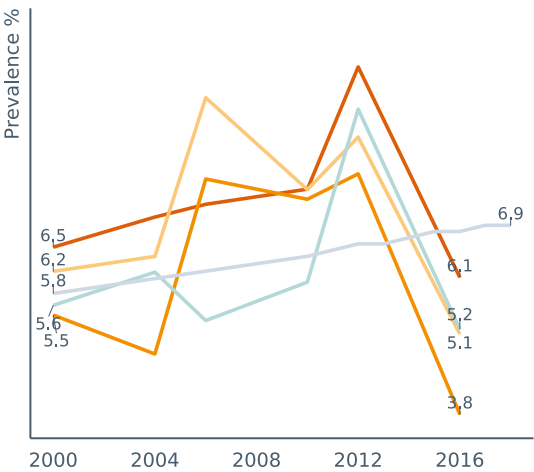
Wasting by age



Stunting by age



Overweight by age



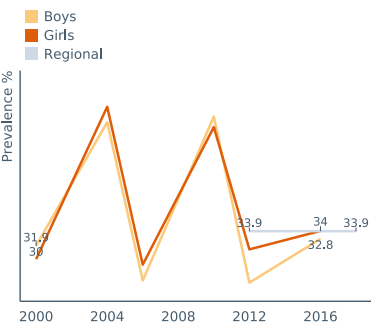
Sources: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group: Joint child malnutrition estimates.

Notes: Regional figures are from UNICEF, Division of Data Research and Policy (2019) where available and are aggregated otherwise.

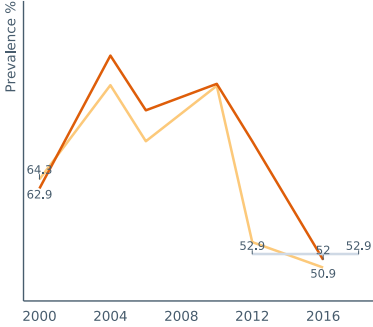
Based on population weighted means of between 1 and 7 countries.

Infant and young child feeding over time

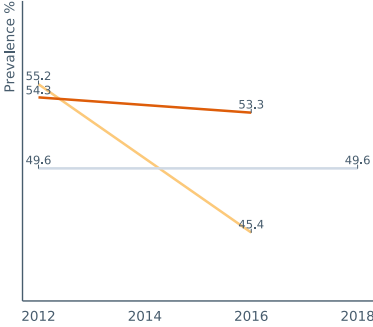
Exclusive breastfeeding by gender



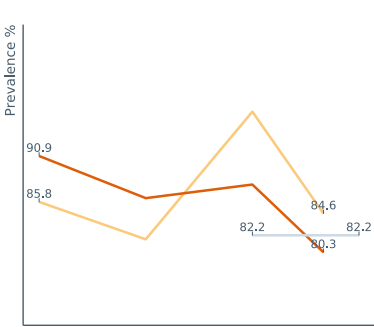
Continued breastfeeding at 1 year by gender



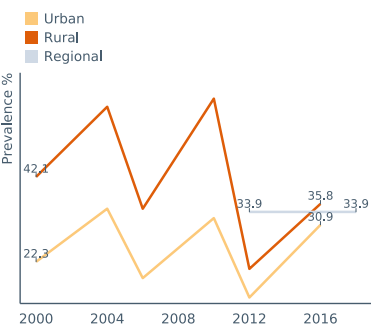
Minimum acceptable diet by gender



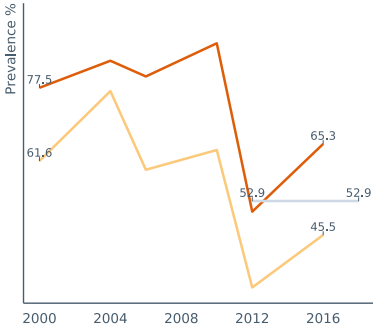
Introduction to solid, semi-solid or soft foods by gender



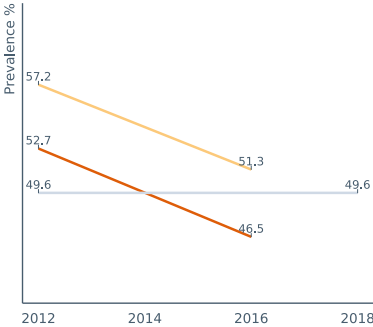
Exclusive breastfeeding by location



Continued breastfeeding at 1 year by location



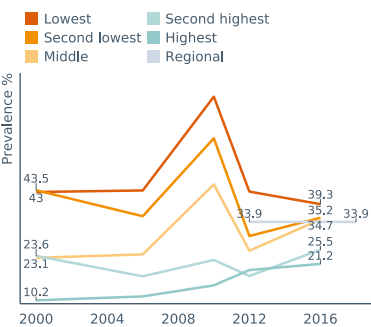
Minimum acceptable diet by location



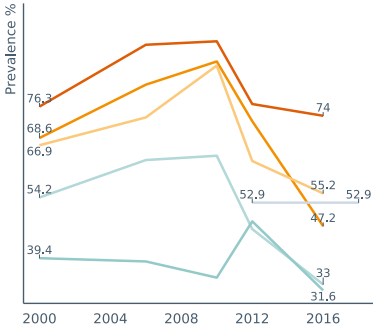
Introduction to solid, semi-solid or soft foods by location



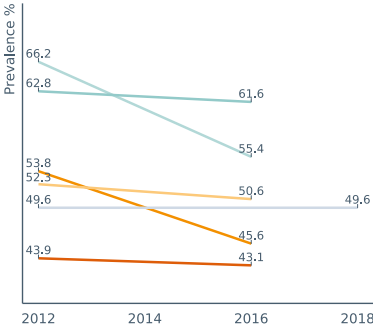
Exclusive breastfeeding by income



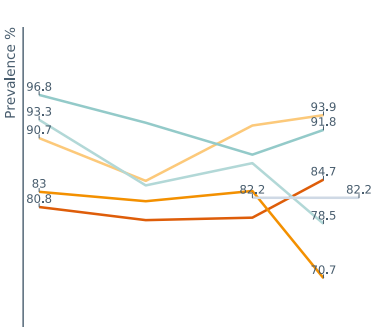
Continued breastfeeding at 1 year by income



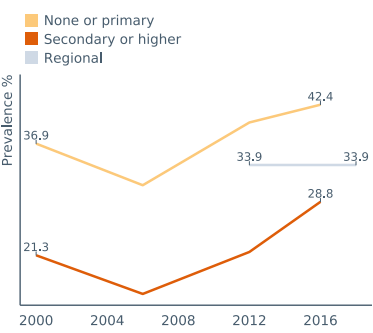
Minimum acceptable diet by income



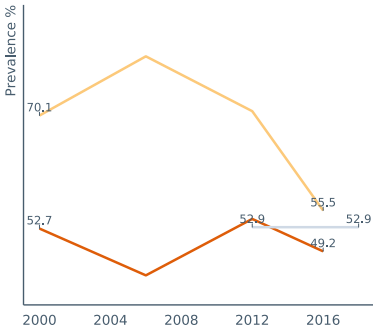
Introduction to solid, semi-solid or soft foods by income



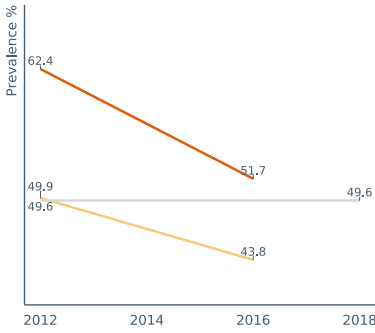
Exclusive breastfeeding by mother's education



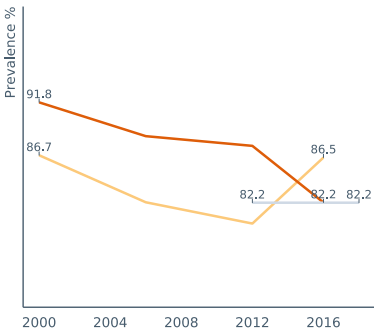
Continued breastfeeding at 1 year by mother's education



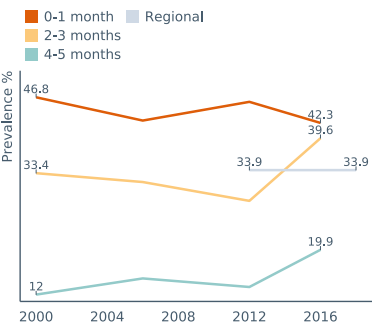
Minimum acceptable diet by mother's education



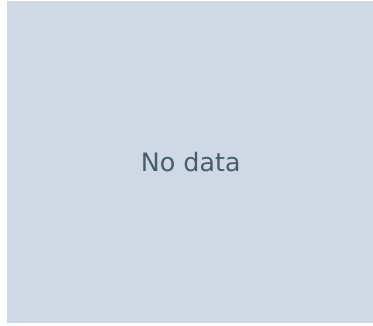
Introduction to solid, semi-solid or soft foods by mother's education



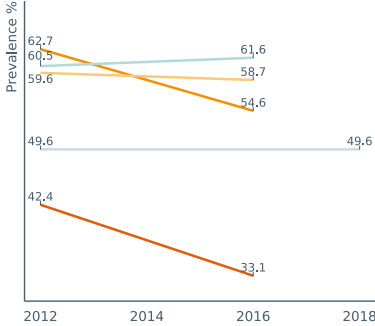
Exclusive breastfeeding by age



Continued breastfeeding at 1 year by age



Minimum acceptable diet by age



Introduction to solid, semi-solid or soft foods by age

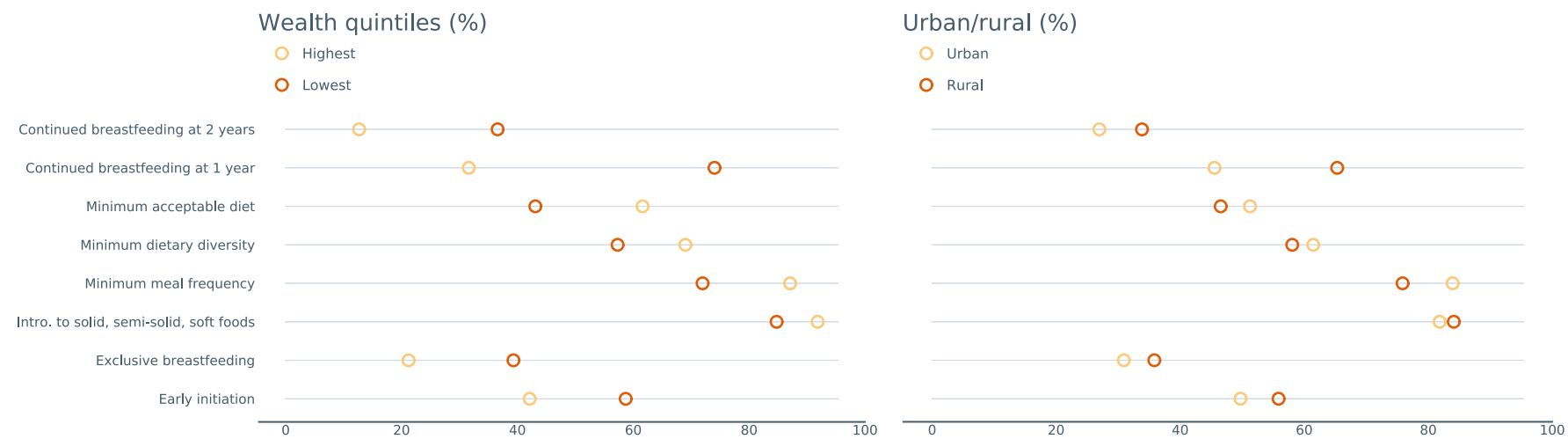


Sources: UNICEF, Division of Data Research and Policy (2019). Global UNICEF Global Databases: Infant and Young Child Feeding, New York, May 2019.

Notes: Regional figures are from UNICEF, Division of Data Research and Policy (2019) where available and are aggregated otherwise.

Based on population weighted means of between 1 and 5 countries.

Infant and young child feeding

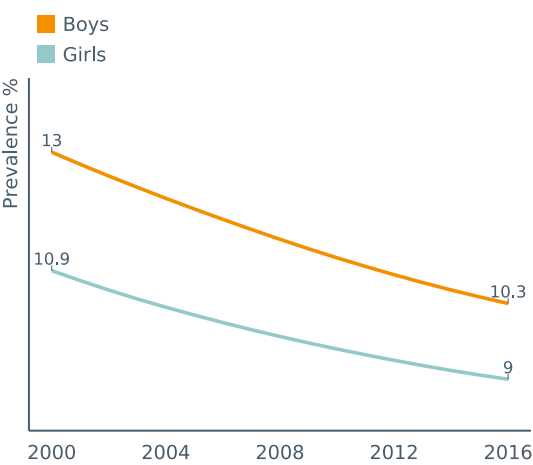


Sources: UNICEF, Division of Data Research and Policy (2019). Global UNICEF Global Databases: Infant and Young Child Feeding: Exclusive breastfeeding, Predominant breastfeeding, New York, May 2019.

Notes: Based on population weighted means of between 1 and 5 countries.

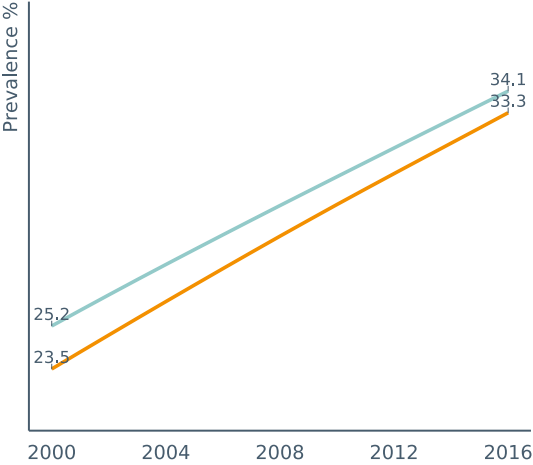
Child and adolescent (aged 5-19) nutrition status

Underweight by gender



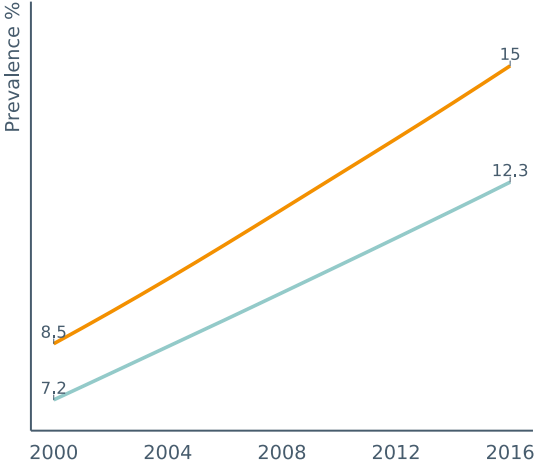
Sources: NCD Risk Factor Collaboration.
Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Overweight by gender



Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

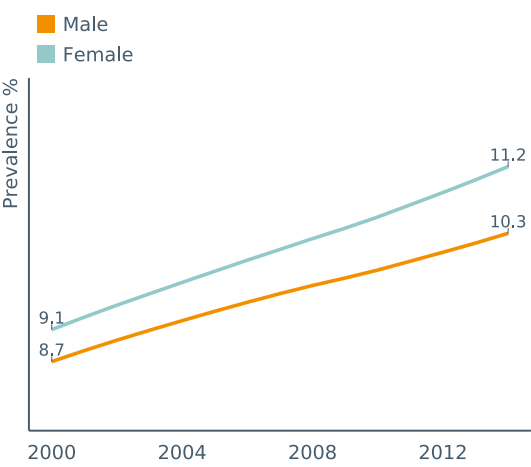
Obesity by gender



Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

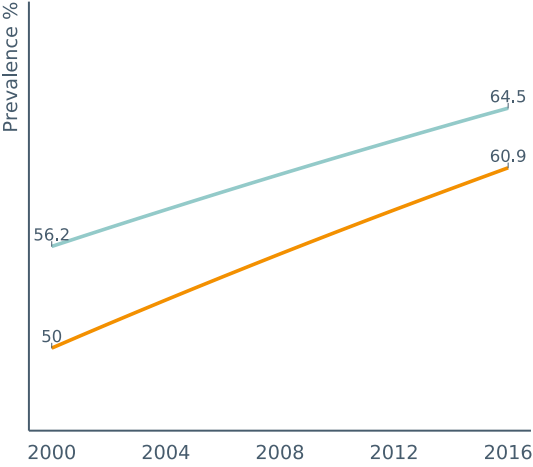
Adult nutrition status

Diabetes by gender



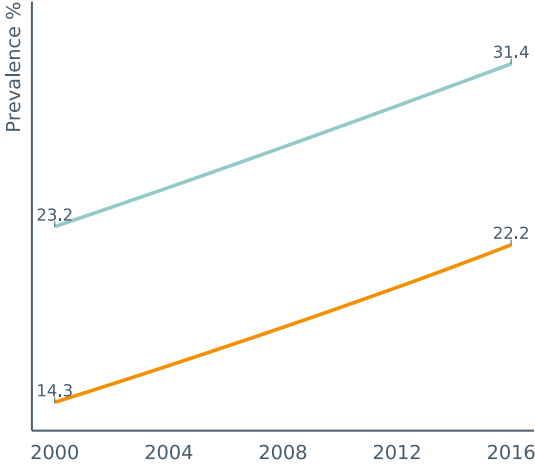
Sources: NCD Risk Factor Collaboration.
Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Overweight by gender



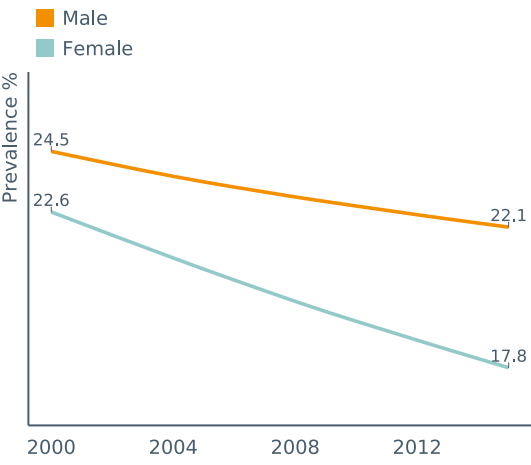
Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Obesity by gender



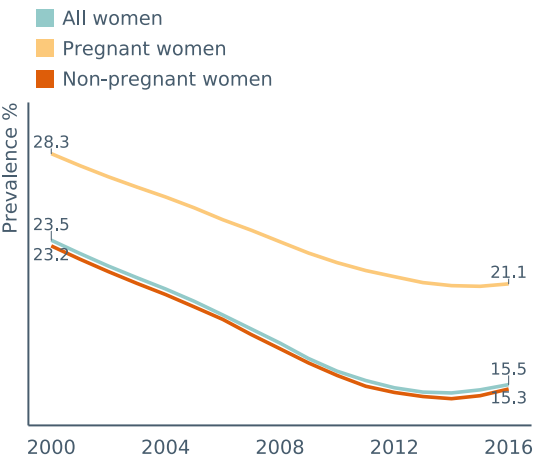
Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Raised blood pressure by gender



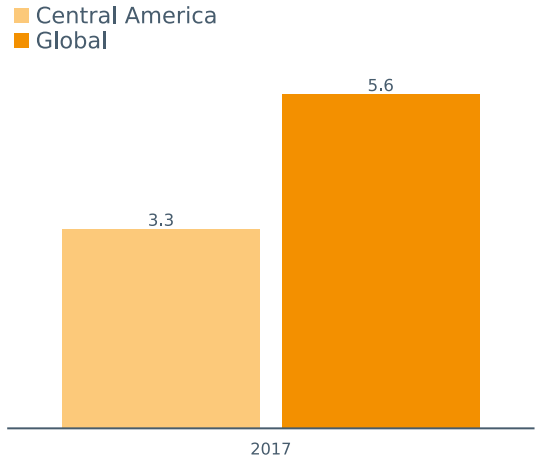
Sources: NCD Risk Factor Collaboration.
Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Anaemia in WRA



Source: WHO Global Health Observatory.
Notes: WRA = women of reproductive age. Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Sodium intake (grams per day)



Source: Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.
Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Dietary needs

Consumption of food groups and components, 2016



Sources: TMREL = theoretical minimum risk of exposure level. Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

Notes: Men and women aged 25 and older. Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Intervention coverage

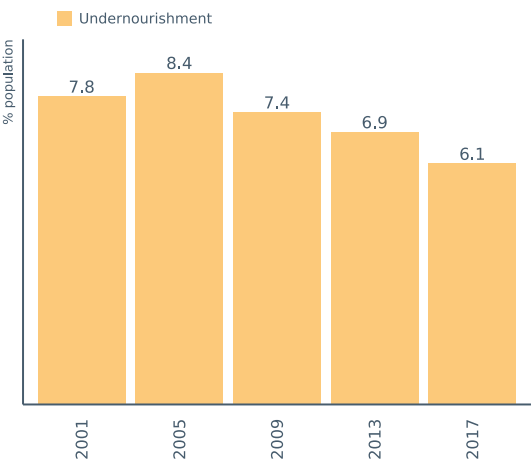
Coverage/practice indicator	Total (%)	Boy (%)	Girl (%)	Year
Children 0-59 months with diarrhoea who received zinc treatment	1	2	1	2014
Children 6-59 months who received vitamin A supplements in last 6 months	50	50	50	2014
Children 6-59 months given iron supplements in past 7 days	20	20	19	2014
Women with a live birth in the five years preceding the survey who received iron tablets or syrup during antenatal care	84	NA	NA	2014
Household consumption of any iodised salt	No data	NA	NA	No data

Sources: Huestis A. and Kothari M., based on 2016 Global Nutrition Report and UNICEF global databases, 2019.

Notes: NA = not applicable. Data is compiled using STATcompiler and taken from country Demographic and Health Surveys for 2005-2018. Based on population weighted means of 1 countries.

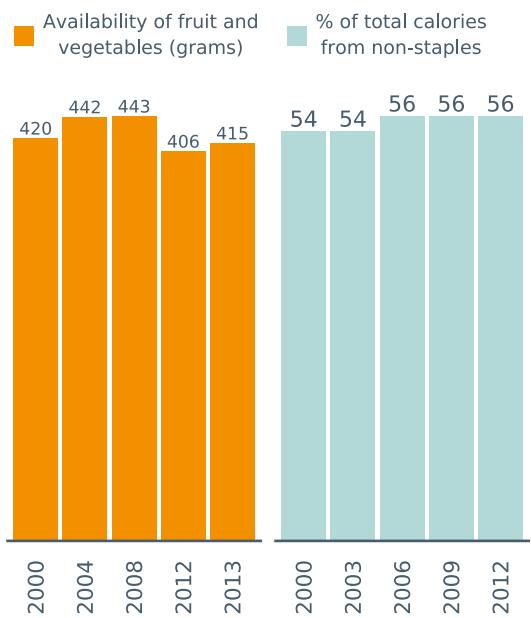
Determinants

Undernourishment



Source: FAOSTAT 2018.

Food supply



Source: FAOSTAT 2018.

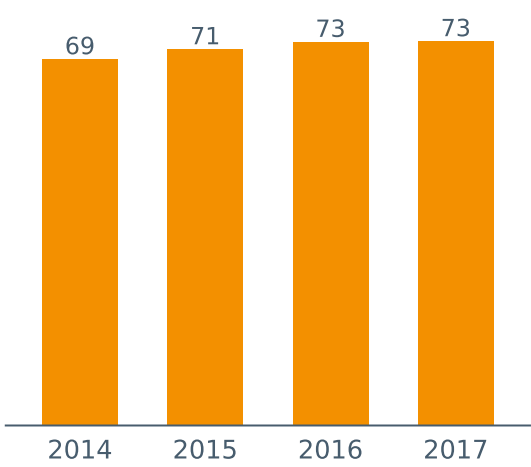
Gender-related determinants

Early childbearing births by age 18 (%) ¹	20	2016
Gender Inequality Index (score [*]) ²	0.37	2017
Gender Inequality Index (country rank) ²	83	2017

Sources: ¹ UNICEF 2018; ² UNDP 2018.

Notes: ^{*} 0 = low inequality, 1 = high inequality. Based on population weighted means of between 1 and 7 countries.

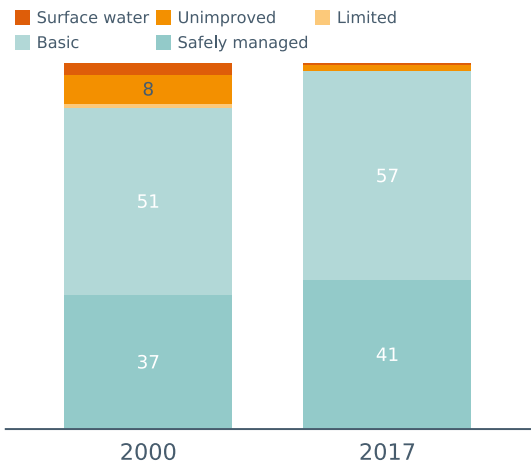
Female secondary education enrolment (net, % population)



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics 2018.

Notes: Based on population weighted means of between 2 and 7 countries.

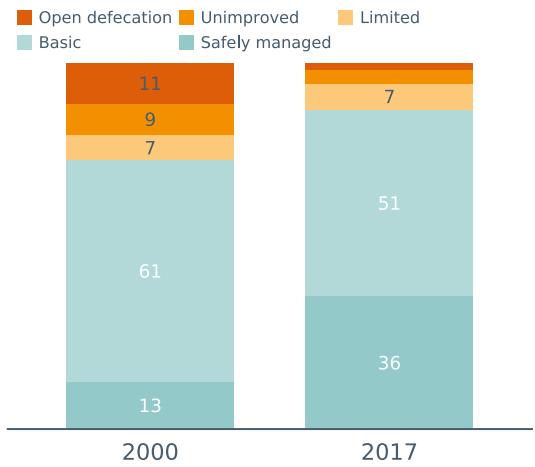
Drinking water coverage (% population)



Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme 2019.

Notes: Based on population weighted means of between 4 and 8 countries.

Sanitation coverage (% population)

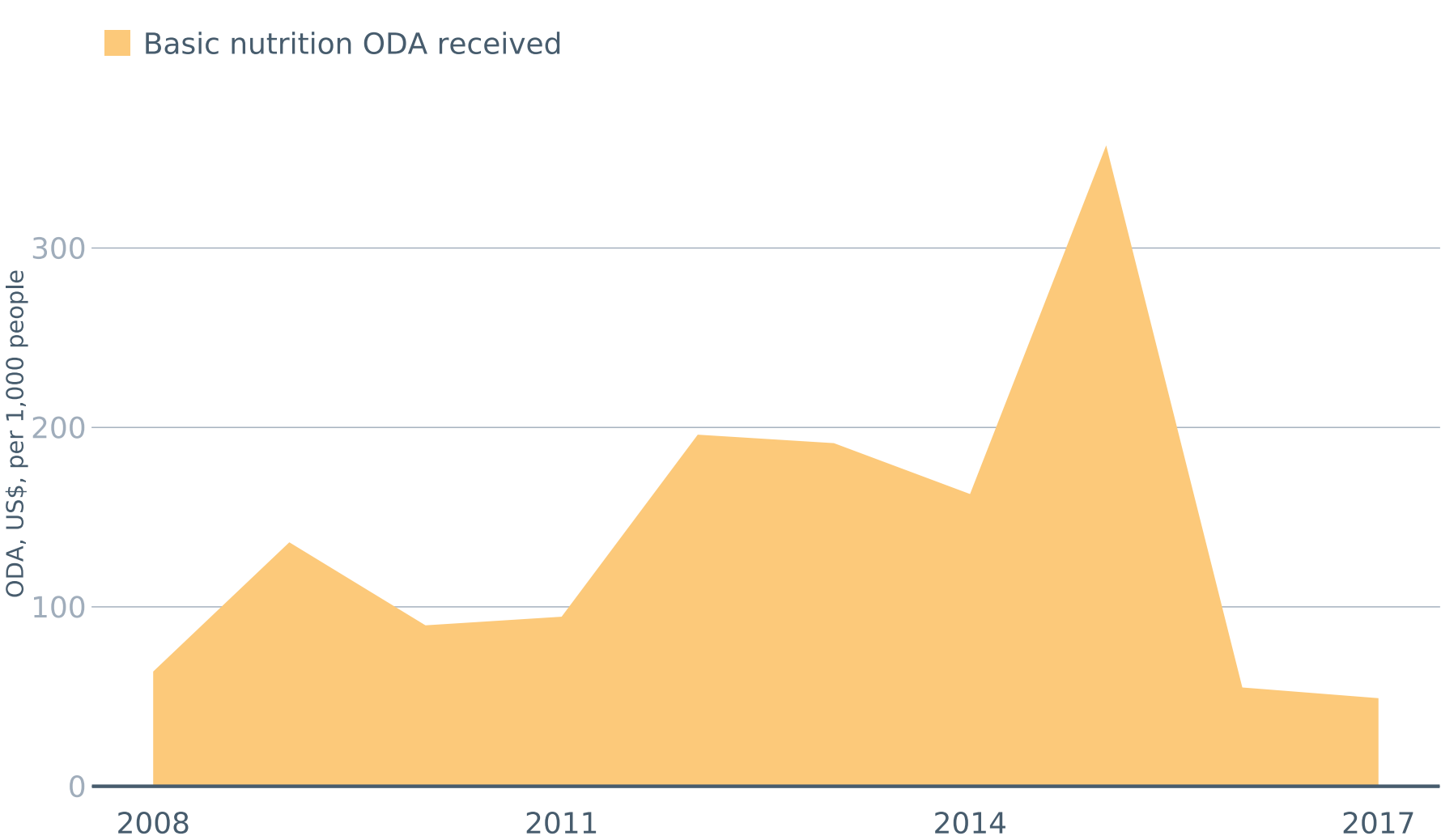


Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme 2019.

Notes: Based on population weighted means of between 1 and 8 countries.

Resources, policies and targets

Development assistance



Sources: Development Initiatives based on OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS).

Notes: ODA = official development assistance. Amounts based on gross ODA disbursements, constant 2017 prices. Figure includes ODA grants and loans, but excludes other official flows and private grants.

National policies

Mandatory legislation for salt iodisation	8/8
Sugar-sweetened beverage tax	1/8
Food-based dietary guidelines	7/8
Policy to reduce salt consumption	2/8
Operational policy, strategy or action plan to reduce unhealthy diet related to NCDs	6/8
Operational, multisectoral national NCD policy, strategy or action plan	5/8
Operational policy, strategy or action plan for diabetes	6/8
Policy to reduce the impact on children of marketing of foods and beverages high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars or salt	1/8
Policy to limit saturated fatty acids and virtually eliminate industrially produced trans-fats	1/8

Sources: Global Fortification Data Exchange 2018; Sugar-sweetened data prepared using data from the NOURISHING database, academic references and market reports; FAO 2018; WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA), 2nd Global Nutrition Policy Review, WHO Global Health Observatory.

Notes: Value refers to the number of countries with policy. NA = not applicable; NCD = non-communicable disease.

Targets included in national (nutrition or other) plan

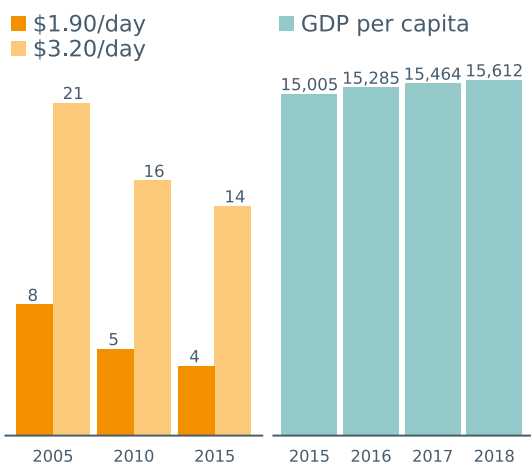
Stunting	Anaemia
7/8	4/8
Low birth weight	Child overweight
6/8	6/8
Exclusive breastfeeding	Wasting
8/8	7/8
Salt intake	Overweight adults and adolescents
5/8	6/8
Multisectoral comprehensive nutrition plan	
5/8	

Sources: WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA), 2nd Global Nutrition Policy Review.

Notes: Value refers to the number of countries with target.

Economics and demography

Poverty rates (%) and GDP (PPP\$)



Sources: World Bank 2019, IMF World Economic Outlook Database 2019.

Notes: PPP = purchasing power parity. Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

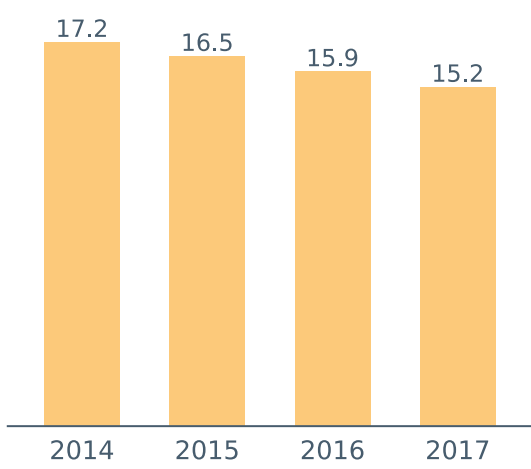
Income inequality

Gini index score ¹	Gini index rank ²	Year
NA	NA	NA

Sources: World Bank 2019.

Notes: ¹ 0 = perfect equality, 100 = perfect inequality.² Countries are ranked from most equal (1) to most unequal (120).

Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation 2018.

Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

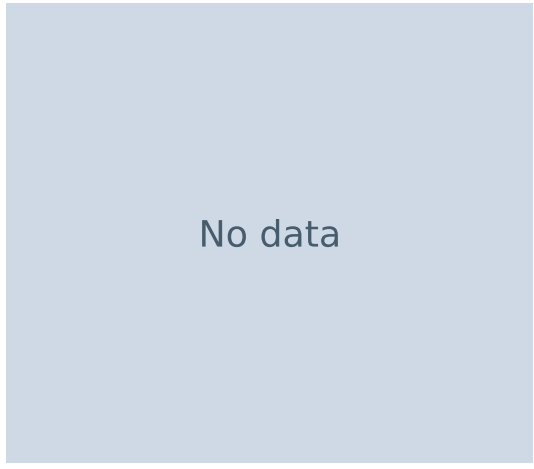
Population

Population (thousands)	93,685	2018
Under-five population (thousands)	16,126	2019
Rural (%)	25	2018
>65 years (thousands)	12,574	2019

Sources: World Bank 2019, UN Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2019.

Notes: Based on population weighted means of 8 countries.

Government revenues (\$m)



Sources: IMF Article IV staff reports (country specific) and IMF World Economic Outlook Database (April 2019).

Population density of health workers per 1,000 people

Physicians	1.91	2016
Nurses and midwives	2.23	2016
Community health workers	0.46	2016

Sources: WHO's Global Health Workforce Statistics, OECD, supplemented by country data.

Notes: Based on population weighted means of between 2 and 8 countries.