



Malnutrition underlies 45% of child deaths – approximately 3 million deaths per year. Basic nutrition underpins a child’s ability to grow and learn and an adult’s ability to work, take up opportunity and live a healthy and long life.

Without assured nutrition, it will be impossible to reach internationally agreed targets for basic health, education and economic prosperity.

NUTRITION

Nutrition is a bellwether indicator for progress for the P20. It is both a result of other investments (health, education, employment, female empowerment, and poverty and inequality reduction) and a fundamental prerequisite for social and economic progress on all of the above.

Malnutrition and poor diets constitute the number-one driver of the global burden of disease.

- Around the world, 23% of children are stunted reflecting lack of access to basic nutrition – this has both physical and developmental implications.
- Amongst children under age 5 within the poorest 20% of the population, 44% are stunted.

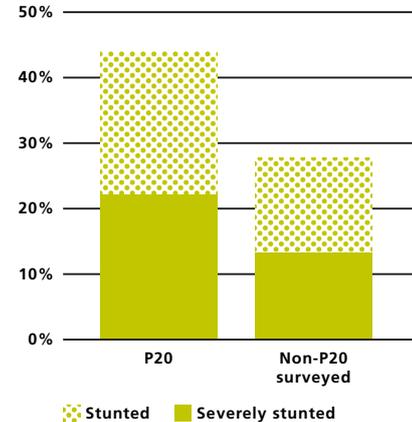
The P20 carry a disproportionate burden of the impact of malnutrition through adulthood as well.

- The data on adult malnutrition is weak. Out of the 99 household surveys used for this analysis, only 44 provide data on women's BMI and only 13 include any metrics on BMI for adult men.
- 46% of women surveyed who were severely thin (with a BMI of <16) were amongst the poorest 20% of the population. A BMI <16 is associated with a markedly increased risk for ill health, poor physical performance, lethargy and even death.¹

Data on malnutrition is updated alongside regular household survey schedules. It will be monitored annually by the P20 Initiative as a bellwether for broader progress in support of Sustainable Development Indicators on ending all forms of malnutrition.

1. Nutrition Landscape Information Systems. Country Profile Indicators Interpretation Guide: www.who.int/nutrition/nlis_interpretation_guide.pdf

44% OF CHILDREN IN THE P20 ARE STUNTED



Note: Does not include countries without a recent Demographic and Health Survey or Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey



THE P20 ARE THE PEOPLE IN THE POOREST 20% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION
