

FOOD SECURITY: The governments of the world agreed on...

"The Committee affirms that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights... The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement."

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
General Comment 12 on the Right to Adequate Food, 1999.

"We consider it intolerable that more than 800 million people throughout the world, and particularly in developing countries, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs."

World Food Summit Plan of Action. Rome, 1996.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The right to food is enshrined in:

UDHR - Art. 25
CESCR - Art. 11
CRC - Art. 24 & 27

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Food security is considered in:

Millennium Development Goals - Goal 1
World Summit for Social Development - Commitment 6
Fourth World Conference on Women - Beijing Platform for Action - Critical Areas of Concern

	UNDERNOURISHMENT			ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT			UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (WEIGHT FOR AGE)		
	1990/1992 (%)	2000/2002 (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression
Countries in better situation									
Albania	5 ^A	6		6.5 ^G	3.0 ^S	→		14.3 ^O	
Algeria	5	5		9.0 ^E	7.0 ^O		9.2 ^I	6.0 ^O	→
Australia				6.3 ^K	6.6 ^O				
Azerbaijan	34 ^A	15	→	6.3 ^J	9.5 ^O	←		7.0 ^S	
Barbados				11.0 ^L	10.0 ^N	→		6.0 ^S	
Belarus				4.2 ^G	5.1 ^P				
Belize				0.3 ^L	6.0 ^S	←		6.0 ^S	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9 ^A	8			3.5 ^O			4.1 ^O	
Brazil	12	9	→	12.0 ^F	9.4 ^M	→	7.0 ^F	5.7 ^M	
Canada				5.6 ^D	5.8 ^O				
Chile	8	4	→	5.2 ^J	5.0 ^O		1.6 ^J	0.8 ^P	
China	16	11	→	6.0 ^H	5.9 ^O		17.4 ^I	9.6 ^O	→
Colombia	17	13	→	8.0 ^E	6.9 ^O		10.1 ^F	6.7 ^O	→
Cook Islands					3.0 ^S				
Costa Rica	6	4		6.3 ^H	6.3 ^P		2.8 ^G	5.1 ^M	←
Croatia	16 ^A	7	→	6.3 ^G	6.0 ^P		0.7 ^K	0.6 ^V	
Cuba	8	3	→	7.6 ^G	6.1 ^O			4.1 ^O	
Czech Republic				5.9 ^H	7.0 ^S			1.0 ^S	
Denmark				5.4 ^H	5.0 ^S				
Egypt	4	3		9.0 ^I	10.0 ^O		10.4 ^G	9.0 ^S	
Estonia	9 ^A	5	→	4.0 ^G	4.0 ^S				
Fiji				18.0 ^H	10.0 ^S	→		8.0 ^S	
Finland				4.1 ^I	4.0 ^S				
Georgia	39 ^A	27	→	5.0 ^G	6.0 ^O			3.1 ^P	
Hungary				9.3 ^G	9.0 ^P		2.2 ^E	2.0 ^S	
Iceland				2.9 ^I	4.0 ^O				
Iran, Islamic Rep.	4	4		8.0 ^H	7.0 ^S		15.7 ^L	10.9 ^O	→
Ireland				4.4 ^D	6.0 ^S				
Italy					6.0 ^O				
Jamaica	14	10	→	4.7 ^F	9.0 ^S	←	4.6 ^H	3.9 ^P	
Jordan	4	7	←	2.0 ^L	9.8 ^M	←	6.4 ^G	4.0 ^S	→
Kazakhstan		13		6.5 ^K	8.0 ^S	←	8.3 ^L	4.2 ^P	→
Kiribati				3.0 ^K	5.0 ^T	←	12.9 ^C	13.0 ^S	
Korea, Rep.				4.3 ^D	4.0 ^T				
Kuwait	23	5	→	3.3 ^E	7.0 ^O	←		9.8 ^M	
Kyrgyzstan	21 ^A	6	→	6.0 ^J	6.3 ^N			11.0 ^N	
Latvia	3 ^A	4		4.9 ^I	5.3 ^P				
Lebanon	3 ^B	3		9.5 ^G	6.0 ^O	→		3.0 ^M	
Libya				4.0 ^I	7.0 ^S	←		4.7 ^L	

→ Significant progress
→ Slight progress
|| Stagnant
← Slight regression
← Significant regression

Notes: Data source year: A: 1993/1995; B: 1995/1997; C: 1985; D: 1987; E: 1988; F: 1989; G: 1990; H: 1991; I: 1992; J: 1993; K: 1994; L: 1995; M: 1996; N: 1997; O: 1998; P: 1999; Q: 2000; R: 1990/1998; S: 1995/2003; U: 1996; V: 1995/1996; W: 1998/1999; X: 1999/2000.

	UNDERNOURISHMENT			ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT			UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (WEIGHT FOR AGE)		
	1990/1992 (%)	2000/2002 (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression
Lithuania	4 ^A			4.0 ^G	4.0 ^P				
Macedonia, FYR	15 ^A	11	→	7.7 ^J	5.0 ^S	→		6.0 ^P	
Malta				5.9 ^J	6.0 ^S				
Mexico	5	5		12.0 ^F	9.1 ^P	→	16.6 ^F	7.5 ^W	
Moldova	5 ^A	11	←	6.6 ^I	5.0 ^S	→		3.2 ^M	
New Zealand				5.7 ^K	6.2 ^N				
Niue					0.0 ^T				
Norway				5.6 ^H	5.0 ^N				
Paraguay	18	14	→	8.7 ^I	8.9 ^M		3.7 ^G	5.0 ^D	
Poland				8.4 ^G	6.0 ^O	→			
Qatar				5.0 ^D	9.7 ^P	←		6.0 ^S	
Romania				7.1 ^G	8.7 ^P			6.0 ^S	
Russian Federation	4 ^A	4		5.3 ^G	6.0 ^S		4.2 ^J	3.0 ^S	→
Samoa				4.0 ^H	4.0 ^T				
Serbia and Montenegro	5 ^A	11	←		4.0 ^S			2.0 ^S	
Seychelles				10.0 ^D	10.0 ^G		5.7 ^E	6.0 ^S	
Slovakia	4 ^A	5		6.4 ^H	7.0 ^P				
Slovenia	3 ^A			5.6 ^H	6.0 ^P				
Spain				5.1 ^F	6.0 ^S				
Sweden				4.4 ^G	4.0 ^O				
Switzerland				5.2 ^I	6.0 ^P				
Syrian Arab Republic	5	4		11.0 ^G	6.0 ^O	→	12.1 ^J	7.0 ^S	→
Tonga					0.0 ^S				
Tunisia				9.2 ^F	5.4 ^O	→	10.3 ^E	4.0 ^O	→
Turkey		3		7.0 ^E	15.2 ^O	←	10.4 ^J	8.3 ^O	→
Turkmenistan	13 ^A	9	→	5.2 ^I	6.0 ^S			12.0 ^S	
Tuvalu					5.0 ^S				
Ukraine		3		8.0 ^K	5.7 ^P	→		3.0 ^D	
United States of America				7.0 ^G	7.6 ^P			1.0 ^S	
Uruguay	6	4		8.4 ^I	8.0 ^T		6.2 ^F	5.0 ^S	
Uzbekistan	8 ^A	26	←	5.5 ^I	6.0 ^O			8.0 ^S	
Venezuela	11	17	←	16.0 ^I	6.1 ^O	→	7.7 ^G	4.0 ^S	→
West Bank and Gaza				6.0 ^L	8.6 ^O	←		4.4 ^M	
Countries above average									
Antigua and Barbuda					8.0 ^S			10.0 ^S	
Argentina				5.9 ^I	7.1 ^P		1.9 ^K		
Armenia	52 ^A	34	→		7.0 ^S			2.5 ^D	
Austria				5.6 ^G	7.0 ^P				
Bahamas				8.0 ^D	7.0 ^T				
Bahrain				7.3 ^J	9.6 ^O	←	7.2 ^F	8.7 ^L	←
Belgium				6.1 ^F	8.0 ^M	←			
Bolivia	28	21	→	6.0 ^I	9.0 ^S	←	11.1 ^G	8.0 ^S	→
Botswana	23	32	←	8.0 ^E	10.0 ^S			12.5 ^D	
Brunei Darussalam				5.0 ^K	10.0 ^T	←			
Bulgaria	8 ^A	11	←	6.3 ^F	10.0 ^S	←			
Dominica				11.0 ^C	10.0 ^T				
Dominican Republic	27	25		11.0 ^H	11.0 ^S		10.3 ^H	4.6 ^O	→
Ecuador	8	4	→	13.0 ^I	16.1 ^P	←	16.5 ^U	12.0 ^S	→
El Salvador	12	11		7.1 ^I	13.0 ^O	←	15.2 ^E	10.0 ^S	→
France				5.6 ^H	7.0 ^S				
Gabon	10	6	→	7.7 ^D	14.0 ^T	←		12.0 ^S	
Germany					7.0 ^P				
Greece				6.0 ^C	8.0 ^S				
Grenada				9.0 ^L	9.0 ^S				
Guyana	21	9	→	12.0 ^D	12.0 ^S		18.3 ^J	14.0 ^S	→
Indonesia	9	6	→	8.2 ^D	8.5 ^N		39.9 ^D	26.4 ^P	→
Israel				7.4 ^H	8.0 ^P				
Japan				6.3 ^G	8.0 ^S				
Luxembourg				5.5 ^F	8.0 ^S	←			

→ Significant progress
→ Slight progress
|| Stagnant
← Slight regression
← Significant regression

Notes: Data source year: A: 1993/1995; B: 1995/1997; C: 1985; D: 1987; E: 1988; F: 1989; G: 1990; H: 1991; I: 1992; J: 1993; K: 1994; L: 1995; M: 1996; N: 1997; O: 1998; P: 1999; Q: 2000; R: 1990/1998; S: 1995/2003; U: 1996; V: 1995/1996; W: 1998/1999; X: 1999/2000.

	UNDERNOURISHMENT			ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT			UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (WEIGHT FOR AGE)		
	1990/1992 (%)	2000/2002 (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression
Malaysia	3			6.9 ^H	9.2 ^N	←	25.0 ^G	12.0 ^S	→
Mauritius	6	6		9.0 ^E	12.7 ^P	←		15.0 ^S	
Mongolia	34	28	→	4.5 ^G	5.5 ^O		12.3 ^I	12.7 ^O	
Morocco	6	7			11.0 ^S			9.0 ^S	
Nigeria	13	9	→	20.0 ^E	14.0 ^S	→	35.3 ^S	29.0 ^S	→
Palau				9.6 ^K	9.0 ^T				
Panama	21	26	←	8.5 ^I	10.0 ^N	←	6.1 ^I	6.8 ^N	
Peru	42	13	→	8.0 ^I	11.0 ^S	←	10.7 ^I	7.0 ^S	→
Portugal				5.4 ^F	8.0 ^S	←			
São Tomé and Príncipe				7.0 ^D	7.0 ^D		16.6 ^U	13.0 ^S	→
Saudi Arabia	4	3		8.3 ^F	11.0 ^S	←		14.3 ^M	
Singapore				8.3 ^I	7.8 ^O			14.0 ^S	
St. Kitts and Nevis				12.0 ^L	9.0 ^T	→			
St. Lucia				9.0 ^L	8.0 ^P	→		14.0 ^S	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines					10.0 ^R				
Suriname	13	11		13.0 ^D	13.0 ^S			13.0 ^S	
Swaziland	14	19	←	7.0 ^C	9.0 ^T			10.0 ^S	
Thailand	28	20	→	18.0 ^G	7.2 ^O	→	25.3 ^D	19.0 ^S	→
Trinidad and Tobago	13	12		16.0 ^H	23.0 ^T	←	6.7 ^D	7.0 ^S	
United Kingdom				6.8 ^I	7.6 ^O				
Vanuatu				9.0 ^G	6.0 ^S	→		20.0 ^S	
Countries below average									
Angola	58	40	→	21.0 ^D	12.0 ^T	→	20.0 ^F	31.0 ^S	←
Bangladesh	35	30	→	50.0 ^D	30.0 ^O	→	65.8 ^G	47.8 ^X	→
Benin	20	15	→	9.6 ^G	16.0 ^S	←	35.0 ^D	23.0 ^S	→
Bhutan				15.0 ^K	15.0 ^P		37.9 ^E	18.7 ^P	→
Burundi	48	68	←	16.0 ^K	16.0 ^S		37.5 ^D	45.1 ^D	←
Cambodia	43	33	→	18.0 ^J	8.9 ^O	→		45.9 ^D	
Cameroon	33	25	→	10.0 ^D	11.0 ^S		15.1 ^H	21.0 ^D	←
Cape Verde					12.9 ^O			14.0 ^S	
Congo, Dem. Rep.	32	71	←		12.0 ^S			31.0 ^S	
Congo, Rep.	54	37	→				23.9 ^D	13.9 ^W	
Côte d'Ivoire	18	14	→	15.0 ^D	17.2 ^P		12.4 ^U	21.4 ^W	
Djibouti				20.0 ^I			22.9 ^F	18.2 ^M	→
Equatorial Guinea					13.0 ^T				
Ethiopia	61 ^B	46	→	8.9 ^J	12.3 ^O	←	47.7 ^I	47.1 ^D	
Gambia	22	27	←	24.0 ^F	14.0 ^D	→		17.0 ^D	
Ghana	37	13	→	17.0 ^E	11.0 ^S	→	30.3 ^E	24.9 ^D	→
Guatemala	16	24	←	7.4 ^I	12.4 ^P	←	33.2 ^D	23.0 ^S	→
Guinea	39	26	→	25.0 ^E	12.0 ^S	→		23.2 ^P	
Honduras	23	22		9.0 ^I	14.0 ^S	←	18.0 ^I	17.0 ^S	
India	25	21	→	28.0 ^H	30.0 ^S	←	63.9 ^G	47.0 ^W	
Iraq				8.0 ^H	15.0 ^S	←	11.9 ^H	15.9 ^D	←
Kenya	44	33	→		11.0 ^S		22.6 ^J	22.7 ^D	
Korea, Dem. Rep.	18	36	←		7.0 ^T			21.0 ^S	
Lesotho	17	12	→	10.0 ^D	14.0 ^T	←	15.8 ^I	18.0 ^S	←
Madagascar	35	37		10.0 ^E	14.0 ^S	←	40.9 ^I	33.1 ^D	→
Malawi	50	33	→	20.0 ^E	16.0 ^S	→	27.6 ^I	25.4 ^D	→
Mali	29	29		17.0 ^E	23.0 ^S	←	30.6 ^D	33.0 ^S	
Marshall Islands					12.0 ^S				
Myanmar	10	6	→	14.0 ^G	15.0 ^S		32.4 ^G	36.0 ^D	←
Namibia	35	22	→	12.0 ^G	14.0 ^S	←		24.0 ^S	
Nicaragua	30	27	→	8.0 ^I	12.0 ^S	←	11.0 ^J	10.0 ^S	
Oman				8.7 ^G	7.9 ^P		24.3 ^H	24.0 ^S	
Philippines	26	22	→	8.7 ^J	20.0 ^S	←	33.5 ^G	31.0 ^S	→
Rwanda	44	37	→	17.0 ^C	9.0 ^S	→	29.4 ^I	29.0 ^D	
Sierra Leone	46	50	←	17.0 ^E	22.0 ^D	←	28.7 ^G	27.2 ^D	
Solomon Islands				20.0 ^H	13.0 ^T	→	21.3 ^F	21.0 ^S	
Somalia								25.8 ^P	

→ Significant progress
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	1990/1992 (%)	2000/2002 (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression	Initial data (%)	Latest available data (%)	Progress or regression
South Africa									
Sri Lanka	28	22	→	19.0 ^J	17.0 ^Q	→	37.3 ^D	33.0 ^Q	→
Sudan	32	27	→	13.0 ^G	31.0 ^T	←	33.9 ^J	17.0 ^S	→
Timor-Leste					10.0 ^S			43.0 ^S	
Togo	33	26	→	20.0 ^E	15.0 ^S	→	24.6 ^E	25.1 ^D	
Uganda	24	19	→		12.0 ^S		23.0 ^F	23.0 ^S	
United Arab Emirates	4			6.0 ^I	15.0 ^T	←		14.4 ^L	
Viet Nam	31	19	→	15.0 ^F	8.9 ^N	→	45.0 ^F	33.1 ^Q	→
Zimbabwe	45	44		5.6 ^F	10.1 ^P	←	11.5 ^E	13.0 ^P	
Countries in worse situation									
Afghanistan				20.0 ^I				48.0 ^N	
Burkina Faso	21	19		11.0 ^D	18.3 ^P	←	32.7 ^J	34.3 ^W	
Central African Republic	50	43	→	15.0 ^E	14.0 ^S		23.2 ^L	24.3 ^D	←
Chad	58	34	→		23.5 ^Q		35.0 ^G	27.6 ^Q	→
Comoros				6.8 ^D	25.0 ^S	←	18.5 ^I	25.4 ^Q	←
Eritrea	68 ^B	73	←		21.0 ^S		41.0 ^J	40.0 ^S	
Guinea-Bissau				20.0 ^D	19.5 ^Q			23.1 ^Q	
Haiti	65	47	→	15.0 ^D	21.0 ^S	←	26.8 ^G	17.0 ^S	→
Lao PDR	29	22	→	60.0 ^H	14.0 ^T	→	44.0 ^J	40.0 ^Q	→
Liberia	34	46	←					26.0 ^S	
Maldives				20.0 ^J	22.0 ^S	←	39.0 ^K	30.0 ^S	→
Mauritania	15	10	→	13.0 ^J	42.0 ^T	←	47.6 ^H	32.0 ^S	→
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.					18.0 ^S				
Mozambique	66	47	→	20.0 ^E	14.0 ^S	→	27.0 ^L	24.0 ^S	→
Nepal	20	17	→	23.0 ^J	20.9 ^Q	→	48.5 ^L	47.1 ^Q	→
Niger	41	34	→	20.0 ^C	11.7 ^Q	→	42.6 ^I	39.6 ^Q	→
Pakistan	24	20	→	25.0 ^E	19.0 ^S	→	40.2 ^H	38.0 ^S	→
Papua New Guinea				16.0 ^K	11.0 ^T	→		35.0 ^S	
Senegal	23	24		10.0 ^C	18.0 ^S	←	21.6 ^I	18.4 ^Q	→
Tajikistan	21 ^A	61	←	8.3 ^L	13.3 ^Q	←			
Tanzania	37	44	←	8.6 ^H	13.0 ^S	←	28.9 ^I	29.4 ^P	
Yemen	34	36		47.0 ^K	32.0 ^S	→	30.0 ^I	46.1 ^N	←
Zambia	48	49		2.3 ^C	11.3 ^M	←	25.2 ^I	28.0 ^S	←
Countries with insufficient data to summarize the area									
Bermuda				7.0 ^L					
Cyprus				9.0 ^J					
Faeroe Islands				3.0 ^C					
French Polynesia				5.3 ^K					
Greenland				5.7 ^I					
Guam				7.1 ^E					
Hong Kong (China)				5.0 ^K					
Macao (China)				4.5 ^K					
New Caledonia				8.6 ^H					
Puerto Rico				14.0 ^L					
San Marino				10.0 ^C					

UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
CESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child

Sources:

Undernourishment: The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2004, FAO (www.fao.org).
Estimated low birth weight: World Development Indicators 2004 website (www.worldbank.org/data/wdi2004/), World Bank; UNICEF End Decade Website Database (www.childinfo.org) and The State of the World's Children 2005, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc05).
Under-5 children malnutrition: World Development Indicators 2004 website (www.worldbank.org/data/wdi2004/); UNICEF End Decade Website Database (www.childinfo.org) and The State of the World's Children 2005, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc05).

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