

A fragmented scenario

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation

RECENT EVOLUTION (Between most recent and previous available data)

- ➔ Significant progress
- ➔ Slight progress
- ⌚ Stagnant
- ➔ Regression
- ➔ Major regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2009

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) RECENT EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (Basic Capabilities Index value, 0-100)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (%)	UNDER-5 CHILD MALNUTRITION (underweight for age, %)	Value
➔	Afghanistan (47)		33 ➔	33
➔	Albania (96)	7 ⌚	6 ➔	7
➔	Algeria (96)	6 ⌚	3 ➔	5
➔	Angola (58)	12 ⌚	26 ➔	19
⌚	Antigua and Barbuda (94)	5 ⌚		5
➔	Argentina (98)	7 ⌚	2 ➔	5
⌚	Armenia (95)	8 ⌚	4 ⌚	6
⌚	Australia (99)	7 ⌚		7
⌚	Austria (99)	7 ⌚		7
➔	Azerbaijan (96)	12 ⌚	8 ➔	10
⌚	Bahamas (99)	7 ⌚		7
➔	Bahrain (99)	8 ⌚		8
➔	Bangladesh (56)	22 ⌚	41 ➔	32
⌚	Barbados (98)	13 ⌚		13
⌚	Belarus (100)	4 ⌚	1 ⌚	3
⌚	Belgium (98)	8 ⌚		8
➔	Belize (92)	6 ⌚		6
➔	Benin (77)	16 ⌚	18 ➔	17
➔	Bhutan (79)	15 ⌚	14 ➔	15
➔	Bolivia (79)	7 ⌚	5 ➔	6
➔	Bosnia and Herzegovina (98)	5 ⌚	1 ➔	3
➔	Botswana (90)	10 ⌚	11 ➔	11
➔	Brazil (90)	8 ⌚	4 ➔	6
⌚	Brunei Darussalam (99)	10 ⌚		10
⌚	Bulgaria (97)	10 ⌚		10
➔	Burkina Faso (71)	16 ⌚	32 ➔	24
➔	Burma/Myanmar (73)	15 ⌚		15
➔	Burundi (61)	11 ⌚	35 ➔	23
➔	Cambodia (66)	11 ⌚	28 ➔	20
➔	Cameroon (77)	11 ⌚	16 ➔	14
⌚	Canada (99)	6 ⌚		6
⌚	Cape Verde (93)	13 ⌚		13
➔	Central African Republic (65)	13 ⌚	24 ➔	19
➔	Chad (44)	22 ⌚		22
➔	Chile (99)	6 ⌚		6
➔	China (95)	2 ⌚	6 ➔	4
➔	Colombia (94)	9 ⌚	5 ➔	7
⌚	Comoros (79)	25 ⌚		25
➔	Congo DR (68)	12 ⌚	28 ➔	20
➔	Congo, Rep. (76)	13 ⌚	11 ➔	12

NOTE:

1. Evolution: Evolution of indicators obtained by re-escalating those values resulting from the relative rate of variation among the following ranks:
Minor than -5: significant progress;
Between -5 and -1: slight progress;
Between -1 and 1: stagnant;
Between 1 a 5: regression;
Larger than 5: significant regression.

This rate is obtained from the following operation:
 $(2009 \text{ value} - 2008 \text{ value} / 2008 \text{ value}) * 100$

2. Value reached by the index: The value results from adding the values calculated for each dimension and dividing the result by the total number of dimensions presenting data.

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SOURCE:

UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc09).

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DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Estimated low birth weight (%): Percentage of newborns weighing less than 2.500 grams, with measurement taken within the first hours of life, before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred. Due to changes in the methodology of the sources the construction of data series presents comparability problems.

Under-5 child malnutrition (underweight for age, %): Percentage of children under five whose weight for age is less than minus two standard deviations from the median for the international reference population ages 0 to 59 months. The reference population adopted by the WHO in 1983 is based on children from the United States, who are assumed to be well nourished.

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→	Cook Islands (98)	3		3
←	Costa Rica (93)	7		7
→	Côte d'Ivoire (74)	17		16 →
←	Croatia (100)	6		6
←	Cuba (99)	5		5
	Czech Republic (99)	7		7
	Denmark (100)	5		5
→	Djibouti (90)	10		24 →
	Dominica (96)	10		10
←	Dominican Republic (87)	11		11
→	Ecuador (86)	16		6 →
→	Egypt (89)	14		5 →
→	El Salvador (80)	7		6 →
→	Equatorial Guinea (58)	13		13
→	Eritrea (60)	14		35 →
	Estonia (99)	4		4
→	Ethiopia (53)	20		33 →
	Fiji (93)	10		10
	Finland (100)	4		4
	France (99)	7		7
→	Gabon (82)	14		8 →
→	Gambia (73)	20		16 →
→	Georgia (96)	7		2 →
	Germany (99)	7		7
→	Ghana (76)	9		13 →
	Greece (99)	8		8
	Grenada (92)	9		9
→	Guatemala (68)	12		18 →
→	Guinea (68)	12		22 →
→	Guinea-Bissau (58)	24		15 →
→	Guyana (84)	13		10 →
→	Haiti (48)	25		18 →
→	Honduras (82)	10		8 →
	Hungary (99)	9		9
	Iceland (98)	4		4
→	India (68)	30		43 →
→	Indonesia (85)	9		23 →
→	Iraq (88)	15		6 →
→	Iran (95)	7		7
	Ireland (100)	6		6
	Israel (99)	8		8
	Italy (100)	6		6
→	Jamaica (95)	12		3 →
	Japan (99)	8		8
←	Jordan (99)	12		12
	Kazakhstan (99)	6		4
→	Kenya (71)	10		16 →
→	Kiribati (89)	5		5

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→	Korea, DPR (87)	7	18	13
	Korea, Rep. (100)	4		4
→	Kuwait (100)	7		7
→	Kyrgyzstan (95)	5	2	4
→	Lao PDR (58)	14	31	23
	Latvia (99)	5		5
←	Lebanon (96)	6		6
→	Lesotho (72)	13		13
→	Liberia (61)		23	23
→	Libya (99)	7	4	6
	Lithuania (99)	4		4
	Luxembourg (100)	8		8
	Macedonia (—)	6	2	4
→	Madagascar (59)	17	36	27
→	Malawi (62)	13	15	14
←	Malaysia (97)	9		9
→	Maldives (91)	22		22
→	Mali (67)	23	27	25
	Malta (99)	6		6
	Marshall Islands (93)	12		12
→	Mauritius (99)	14		14
→	Mexico (95)	8	3	6
←	Micronesia (89)	18		18
←	Moldova (—)	6		6
→	Mongolia (93)	6	5	6
→	Montenegro (94)	4	2	3
→	Morocco (81)	15	9	12
→	Mozambique (66)	15	20	18
→	Namibia (89)	14		14
	Nepal (58)	21	39	30
	New Zealand (98)	6		6
←	Nicaragua (70)	12		12
→	Niger (55)	13	39	26
→	Nigeria (56)	14	24	19
	Norway (100)	5		5
→	Oman (98)	8	13	11
→	Pakistan (71)	19	31	25
	Palau (99)	9		9
→	Panama (93)	10	6	8
	Papua New Guinea (62)	11		11
→	Paraguay (95)	9	3	6
→	Peru (88)	11	6	9
→	Philippines (78)	20	21	21
	Poland (99)	6		6
	Portugal (99)	8		8
←	Qatar (95)	10		10
←	Romania (96)	8	4	6
←	Russia (99)	6		6

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→	Rwanda (53)	6	18	12
	Samoa (97)	4		4
→	São Tomé and Príncipe (83)	8	7	8
→	Saudi Arabia (95)	11		11
→	Senegal (68)	19	14	17
→	Serbia (98)	5	1	3
→	Sierra Leone (57)	24	25	25
	Singapore (92)	8	3	6
	Slovakia (99)	7		7
	Slovenia (99)	6		6
←	Solomon Islands (—)	13	16	15
→	Somalia (48)	11	32	22
→	South Africa (89)	15	10	13
	Spain (100)	6		6
→	Sri Lanka (96)	22	23	23
	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	9		9
	St Lucia (98)	12		12
	St Vincent and Grenadines (95)	5		5
→	Sudan (70)	31		31
→	Suriname (82)	13	7	10
→	Swaziland (80)	9	5	7
	Sweden (100)	4		4
	Switzerland (97)	6		6
→	Syria (95)	9	9	9
→	Tajikistan (89)	10	14	12
→	Tanzania (73)	10	17	14
→	Thailand (96)	9	7	8
→	Timor-Leste (56)	12		12
→	Togo (68)	12	22	17
	Tonga (96)	3		3
←	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	19		19
←	Tunisia (95)	7		7
←	Turkey (92)	16		16
→	Turkmenistan (88)	4	8	6
	Tuvalu (89)	5		5
→	Uganda (59)	12	16	14
←	Ukraine (99)	4		4
←	United Arab Emirates (100)	15		15
	United Kingdom (99)	8		8
→	United States of America (98)	8	1	5
←	Uruguay (98)	8		8
→	Uzbekistan (93)	5	4	5
	Vanuatu (87)	6		6
←	Venezuela (94)	9		9
→	Vietnam (93)	7		7
←	West Bank and Gaza (—)	7		7
→	Yemen (59)	32	42	37
→	Zambia (71)	12	15	14
→	Zimbabwe (77)	11	12	12

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FOOD SECURITY

A fragmented scenario

The concept of food security has to do with the level of people's free access to safe and nutritionally adequate food in sufficient quantities to satisfy their daily energy needs and preferences as regards food choice, to be able to lead healthy, active lives.¹ This is a complex concept and it involves at least three broad dimensions: the availability of food, people's access to food, and its ultimate beneficial effects, in other words its impact on people's state of health.

It is difficult to find indicators comparable across a large number of countries that are based on reliable sources and are periodically updated. These indicators should reflect the situation of the population that is the final beneficiary of the effort. The fact that food is available and that people have access to it does not necessarily establish clear parameters about its real distribution.

With this in mind, Social Watch has selected, from the range of information available, three indicators that really capture the last of the dimensions mentioned above. We understand that what really reflects food coverage is its final impact on the population's state of health, and this data is crucial to be able to make international comparisons.

The real health situation in each country can be captured in a reasonably direct way by the proportion of people who are undernourished, the proportion of children with low birth weight and the proportion of children aged 5 who have low weight for their age. These aspects are closely linked to the population's difficulties as regards exercising their right of free access to adequate food.

Global evolution

In 2009 there was no registered variation in the "low birth weight" indicator (the percentage of newborn infants weighing less than 2,500 grams), so variation from 2008 to 2009 can only be gauged by examining the changes in the proportion of children under 5 who are underweight (malnutrition).

The 2009 data show that 15% of the children in the world suffer from malnutrition and one in ten was underweight at birth (Table 2). As regards malnutrition, the indicator for which there is new information, the values show that half as many children had nutrition problems in 2009 compared to 2008 (the average fall in this value was 64.7%). Improvement was generalized in this dimension, and only Azerbaijan and Romania (which went from 7% to 8% and from 3% to 4%, respectively) showed a worsening in their absolute values on this indicator (these countries are in Central Asia and Europe, respectively).

1 Jakob Skoet and Kostas Stamoulis. *The state of food insecurity in the world 2006*. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Agricultural Economy and Development Board, Electronic publication by the FAO information department, Rome, Italy (ISBN 92-5-305580-4): <www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0750s/a0750s00.htm>.

CHART 1. Current food security situation by regions (number of countries)

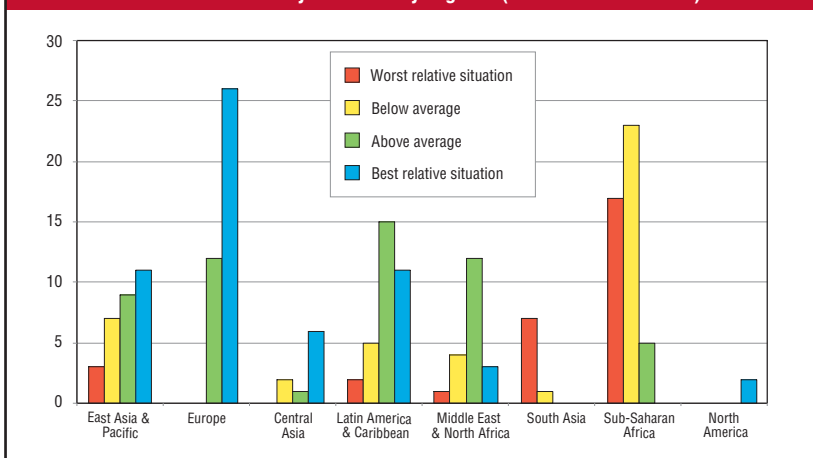


TABLE 1. Current food security situation by evolution (number of countries)

	←	↔	↔	→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	1	0	2	1	26	30
Below average	5	1	4	2	30	42
Above average	9	0	23	1	21	54
Better relative situation	8	0	29	0	22	59
Total	23	1	58	4	99	185

TABLE 2. Food security: averages by indicator of countries in worse and better situations

		Low birth weight (%)	Malnutrition in children under 5 Low weight (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	21.4	33.9
	Number of countries	26	18
Better relative situation	Average	5.0	3.8
	Number of countries	48	32
Total	Average	10.4	15.0
	Number of countries	184	95

In the group of countries in the worse relative situation the average evolution was -13.9% (from 38.6% in 2008 to 33.9% in 2009). Naturally, in the countries in the better relative situation this indicator fell much more and in 2009 it was nearly four times lower (the decrease was from 15.1% in 2008 to 3.8% in 2009, which is a negative variation of 297.4% over the year).

However, in comparative terms, this generalised improvement involved a widening of the gap between the relative situations of different countries and regions. In fact, the accelerated fall in the figures for some countries and the slow improvement in others translates into relative regression in a large number of countries.

Access by regions

Like in other dimensions, the regions that have achieved the most pronounced reduction in malnutrition are North America (100% of countries are in the better relative situation) and Europe (68.4% are in the better relative situation and 31.6% above the average), and no countries in these regions are in the worse relative situation or below the average (Chart 1).

No countries in Central Asia are in the worse relative situation, 2 in 10 (22.2%) are below the average, and 7 in 10 (77.8%) are above the average (11.1%) or in the better relative group (66.7%).

East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Middle East and North Africa showed similar behaviour. In all three regions most of the countries (66.7%, 78.8% and 75%, respectively) are above the average (30%, 45.5% and 60%, respectively) or in a better relative situation (36.7%, 33.3% and 15%, respectively). But these regions also have countries that rank in the worse relative situation (10%, 6.1 and 5%, respectively) or below the average (23.3%, 15.2 and 20%, respectively).

Sub-Saharan Africa is not the region that ranks lowest in food security. However, although it does have some countries above the average (11.1%), most are below this level (51.1%) and nearly 4 in 10 are in the worse relative situation (37.8%).

Lastly we come to the most problematic region in terms of food insecurity, South Asia. Nearly 9 in 10 countries (87.5%) are in the worse relative situation and the remaining 1 in 10 are below the average (12.5%). ■