

# How to read the thematic area tables

**FOOD SECURITY**  
**Insurmountable gaps?**

Complete table at: [www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007](http://www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007)

**1 Summary:** CURRENT SITUATION (colour)  
**2 Evolution:** EVOLUTION (arrow)

**3 COUNTRIES\*** (BCI value, 0-100)  
**4 ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT† (%)**  
**5 UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)**  
**6 UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)**

**References:**  
**7 CURRENT SITUATION** (value 0-100 or highest available year)  
 ■ Better situation  
 ■ Above average  
 ■ Below average  
 ■ Worst situation  
 ■ Insufficient data  
**EVOLUTION** (value 0-100 or highest available year)  
 → Significant progress  
 → Slight progress  
 → Stagnant  
 ← Slight regression  
 ← Significant regression

COUNTRIES* (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT† (%)	UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)
Alghanistan (—)	39	—	—
Albania (95)	5	7	14
Algeria (95)	5	7	10
Angola (—)	38	12	31
Antigua and Barbuda (—)	8	—	—
Argentina (94)	8	4	4
Armenia (96)	29	7	4
Azerbaijan (91)	10	12	7
Bahamas (—)	7	—	—
Bahrain (99)	8	9	—
Bangladesh (57)	30	36	48
Barbados (99)	11	—	—
Belarus (97)	3	5	—
Belize (91)	6	—	—
Benin (73)	14	16	23
Bhutan (89)	9	15	19
Bolivia (80)	23	7	8
Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	9	4	4
Botswana (91)	30	10	13
Brazil (89)	8	8	6
Brunei Darussalam (97)	10	—	—
Bulgaria (97)	9	10	—
Burkina Faso (71)	17	19	38
Burundi (56)	67	16	45
Cambodia (59)	33	11	45
Cameroun (70)	25	13	18
Cape Verde (92)	—	13	—
Central African Republic (—)	45	14	24
Chad (43)	33	22	37
China (99)	4	6	1
China (93)	12	4	8
Colombia (89)	14	9	7
Comoros (72)	—	25	25
Congo, DR (—)	72	12	31
Congo, Rep. (80)	34	—	15
Cook Islands (—)	—	3	—
Costa Rica (96)	4	7	5

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**Summary:** CURRENT SITUATION (colour)  
**Evolution:** EVOLUTION (arrow)

COUNTRIES* (BCI value, 0-100)	UNDERNOURISHMENT (%)	ESTIMATED LOW BIRTH WEIGHT* (%)	UNDER-5 CHILDREN MALNUTRITION (weight for age) (%)
Sri Lanka (—)	22	22	29
St. Kitts and Nevis (99)	9	—	—
St. Lucia (96)	10	—	—
St. Vincent and Grenadines (96)	10	—	—
Sudan (81)	27	—	41
Suriname (85)	10	13	13
Swaziland (77)	19	9	10
Syrian Arab Republic (87)	4	6	7
Tajikistan (86)	61	15	—
Tanzania (70)	44	10	22
Thailand (—)	21	9	18
Timor-Leste (—)	—	12	46
Togo (70)	25	18	25
Tonga (94)	—	0	—
Trinidad and Tobago (96)	11	23	6
Tunisia (95)	7	4	—
Turkey (92)	3	16	4
Turkmenistan (—)	8	6	12
Tuvalu (89)	5	—	—
Uganda (83)	19	12	23
Ukraine (97)	3	5	1
United Arab Emirates (96)	—	15	14
Uruguay (95)	3	9	5
Uzbekistan (—)	26	7	8
Vanuatu (85)	6	—	—
Venezuela (94)	18	9	5
Viet Nam (90)	17	9	27
West Bank and Gaza (96)	5	9	5
Yemen (64)	37	32	46
Zambia (75)	47	12	20
Zimbabwe (76)	45	11	17

**Notes:**  
 \* Due to changes in the methodology of the source the construction of data series presents comparability problems.  
 † OECD countries are not included.  
 ‡ The State of the World's Children 2007, UNICEF ([www.unicef.org/stateof07](http://www.unicef.org/stateof07)).

**DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:**  
**Undernourishment (%)** Percentage of undernourished in the total population. Undernourishment is the result of food intake that is insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements continuously. The World Health Organization recommended that the average person needs to take in a minimum of 2000 kcal per day to maintain body functions, health and normal activity. This global minimum requirement of calories is broken down into country-specific differentials that are a function of the age-specific structure and body mass of the population (2001-2003, evolution since 1990-1991).  
**Estimated low birth weight (%)** Percentage of newborns weighing less than 3,000 grams, with measurement taken within the first hours of life, before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred (1989-2005).  
**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 (1980-2005, evolution since 1980).

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The thematic area tables present the statistical information available for each indicator. But in addition, they include a group of tools – both quantitative and qualitative – aimed at enriching the analysis and evaluation of the statistical information in the context of the corresponding area of development.

- 1. Current situation in the area:** Illustrates the current situation of the countries in the corresponding dimension through a summarizing measurement that evaluates countries based on their performance on the set of indicators included for which information is available (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”). The different categories are colour coded (see References: 7). The categories are: Countries in better situation, Countries above average, Countries below average, Countries in worse situation.
- 2. Evolution in the area:** Presents the evolution of country situations as an average of the evolution in indica-

tors for which sufficient information is available (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”). The categories are indicated by symbols (see References: 7). Categories are: Significant regression, Slight regression, Stagnant, Slight progress, Significant progress.

**3. Basic Capabilities Index (BCI) value:** Presents the values of the BCI for each country, a measurement designed by Social Watch that evaluates country status with regard to the basic conditions of development (for more information, see the box “Technical notes: BCI design in countries” in the “Basic Capabilities Index 2007” article in this Report). Countries with the highest BCI scores are listed first.

**4. Indicator:** Each thematic area includes indicators that are pertinent to evaluating the dimension in question and for which information is available from a large number of countries. This makes it possible to visualize the situation in each country while comparing the distances between them. The defi-

nitions of each indicator can be found at the foot of the corresponding table (see 8).

**5. Current situation:** This column presents the latest data available for each country according to the source consulted. These figures allow us to evaluate and compare the present situation in the countries of the world. Given that in many cases, the latest available figures are not up to date, it is important to take into account the time period to which the data correspond.

**6. Evolution:** Based on current and initial data,<sup>1</sup> the rate of progress or regression over the intervening time period is calculated for each country, taking into consideration the evolution of all of the countries in this indicator (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”). The result is expressed

graphically (see References: 7), facilitating the reading and evaluation of performance in the indicator during this period. The categories are: Significant regression, Slight regression, Stagnant, Slight progress, Significant progress.

**7. References:** Shows the categories of the current situation in a country in the area and the recent evolution for each indicator and for the area. These variables are constructed by Social Watch to facilitate the evaluation of countries in each area based on the information available (see box “Methodological notes: Thematic tables”).

**8. Definitions, Notes and Sources:** The definition of each indicator as well as the source(s) of the information used are provided at the foot of the corresponding table. The information used for the indicators is obtained from recognized international organizations that compile the statistics produced by the countries. Notes have been added with information needed to read the tables.

<sup>1</sup> Initial data or starting point: Presents the available information from as close as possible to 1990 (the year that is taken as the starting point in the international commitments that set quantitative goals in different aspects of social development).