WBG SCORECARD FY24-FY30 METHODOLOGY NOTE  
WBG Client Context & Vision Indicators

The purpose of this note is to ensure the rigor, transparency, and reproducibility of the WBG client context and vision indicators included in the new WBG Scorecard FY24-FY30, as well as their alignment with the WBG’s vision. Technical teams were asked to provide a sufficiently detailed methodology so that anyone who reads this note can understand its rationale, theory of change, data sources, and method of calculation.

Definitions included in this template are aligned to the WBG Scorecard paper endorsed by the Board on Dec 19th, 2023. The methods notes are living documents and will be subject to updating and revision pending operational inputs and implementation lessons over time.

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## Development Relevance

Chronic and recurrent malnutrition can cause child stunting, which is a major contributor to child mortality and reflects inequality in human development. Undernourished children are more susceptible to infections, and being underweight increases their risk of death while hindering their cognitive development.

It is a global priority to monitor a child’s nutritional status to improve child nutrition and prevent recurring sickness and faltering growth. Child stunting is tracked regularly and officially recognized as United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 2.2.1, which refers to the “prevalence of stunting (height for age < -2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age.” This indicator is also part of the global targets endorsed by WHO Member States, as well as part of the International Development Association (IDA) Results Measurement System of the World Bank.

## Limitations

Surveys used in the calculation of stunting rates are subject to uncertainties, which arise from both sampling error and non-sampling error. Non-sampling errors may include errors in measurement, recording, and other technical factors. The estimates generated by the Joint Malnutrition Estimates (JME) model account for sampling error around survey estimates. However, it is impossible to account for or review non-sampling errors fully. Nonetheless, a data quality review of weight, height, and age data from household surveys, where available, helps to create comparable time series across countries and over time.

## Data and Calculation

### Data Source(s)

The UN Statistical Commission has designated the World Bank as the custodian agency to monitor SDG 2.2.1, with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO). Data are drawn from UNICEF and WHO Joint Malnutrition Estimates.1

### Method of Calculation (Core)

The data are based on modeled estimates that are used to create a trend line across national data points using a combination of smoothing techniques and covariates. The underlying data, including anthropometric information, are collected primarily from household surveys (e.g., Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) surveys, and Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), following the “Recommendations for data collection, analysis and reporting on anthropometric indicators in children under 5 years of age.”3 The “WHO Child Growth Standards” serve as the standard reference for the growth patterns of infants and children from diverse ethnic backgrounds.4 Uncertainty intervals are available at the country level to address uncertainties implicit in the modeled estimates; the quality of survey data may affect the reported, especially in countries with sparse data.5

Aggregates are constructed as under-five population-weighted averages using population totals for the age group from the WDI, which is sourced from the United Nations Population Division’s World Population Prospects (2022 Revision). WDI data are annually reviewed by country and regional teams, GPs, and CCSAs, and Executive Director Offices during World Bank-wide review, in addition to routine sanity checks every update.

### Method of Calculation (Disaggregation)

Disaggregation of indicators by dimensions such as country income groupings, regions, FCV status, and other country classifications are provided where minimum data requirements are met.

### Version

Version 1. Revised March 28, 2024

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2 Please see: McLain et al. 2018.