

2 ZERO HUNGER



Goal Two sets targets for the interlinked challenges of eradicating hunger, improving nutrition and increasing food production in a sustainable way. Highlights of the baseline status of the region on nutrition are based on available data on undernourishment, stunting and malnutrition. The analysis of agricultural sustainability is based on indicators of agricultural productivity and public investment in the sector. Assessing the sustainability aspect of the goal cannot currently be adequately done as further statistical methodological work needs to be carried out for a number of related indicators.

5 out of 8 undernourished people

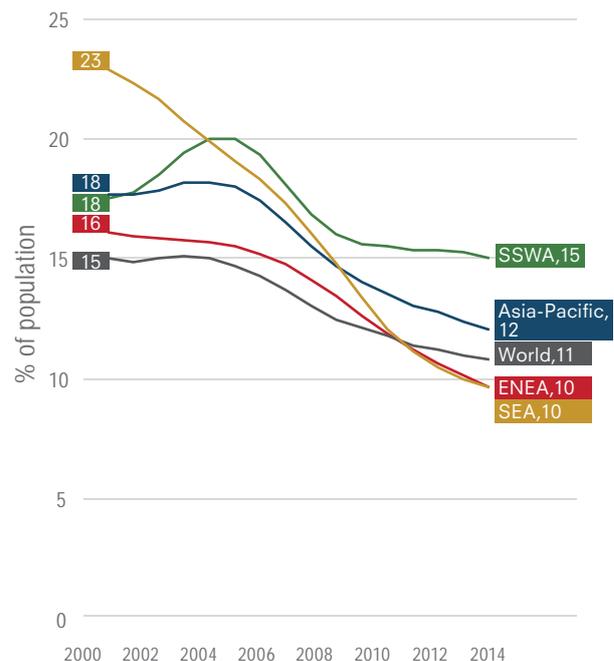


live in Asia and the Pacific

Between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of the population undernourished in Asia and the Pacific fell significantly. In South-East Asia, the proportion fell by 13 percentage points.

Nevertheless, Asia and the Pacific still accounts for a high proportion of global hunger: in 2015, of the world's 795 million undernourished people, nearly 500 million lived in this region. Many are in South and South-West Asia, where progress appeared to stall. In 2015, around 15% of the subregion's population – 286 million people were undernourished.

Proportion of population undernourished, Asia and the Pacific and subregions, 2000-2015



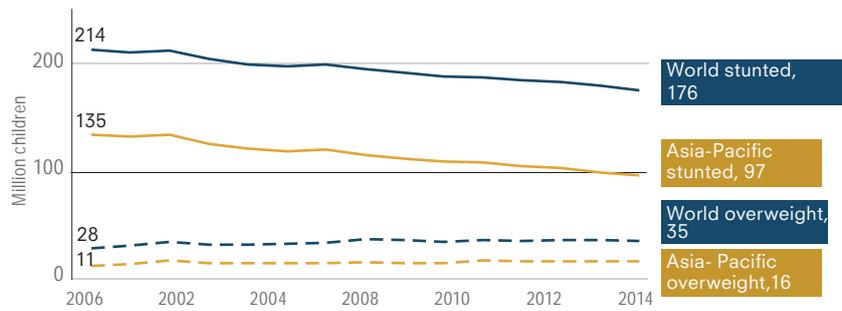
Asia and the Pacific is home to nearly half of both the stunted and the overweight children in the world

Stunting is an indicator of underweight and is measured by low-height-for-age. Between 2000 and 2014, the proportion of under-5 children who were stunted fell from 39% to 27%. However, this still left the region with around 100 million stunted under-fives – more

than half of the global total. South and South-West Asia, accounted for 70% of the stunted in the region in 2014.

In the world as a whole in 2014, the proportion of children overweight was 5.2%. In this region it was 4.6%, but the problem is increasing: between 2000 and 2014, the number of overweight children rose by 40%.

Stunted and overweight, Asia-Pacific and the world, 2000-2014



Agricultural productivity of high-income countries in the region is 67 times higher more than that of LDCs

Productivity is measured as total value added in agriculture (in 2010 US dollars) divided by the number of people employed. In Asia and the Pacific this ranges from \$50,000 per worker in high-income countries to \$750 in the least developed countries. Moreover, the gap has been widening.

Between 2000 and 2015, while agricultural productivity in the high-income countries doubled, in the least developed countries it increased by only 31%.

Agricultural productivity, Asia -Pacific and the world, \$ thousands, 2000 and 2015



The rate of growth of government spending on agriculture in the region has slowed down since the food price crisis period

Most investment in agriculture comes from the private sector but greater investment by governments spurs private sector investment.

During the period 2002-2005, government expenditure on agriculture across Asia and the Pacific averaged 2.4% of total government expenditure. But over the period 2010-2014, the proportion rose to 6.8%. Most of this increase was in the region's developing countries.

Government spending appears to have been influenced by the global food price crisis in 2006-2008. In developing countries, the share of government spending in agriculture increased rapidly between the periods 2002-2005 and 2006-2009, but slowed down since the food price crisis period.

Government expenditure on agriculture as a proportion of total government expenditure, 2002-2014

