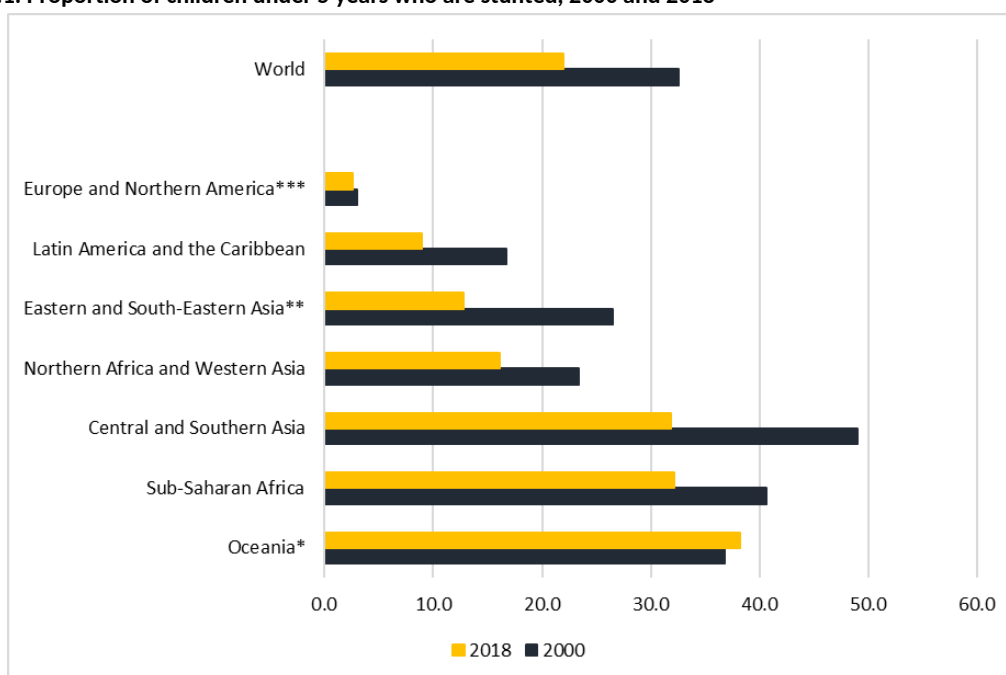


## Global Issues

Chart 10.1: Proportion of children under 5 years who are stunted, 2000 and 2018



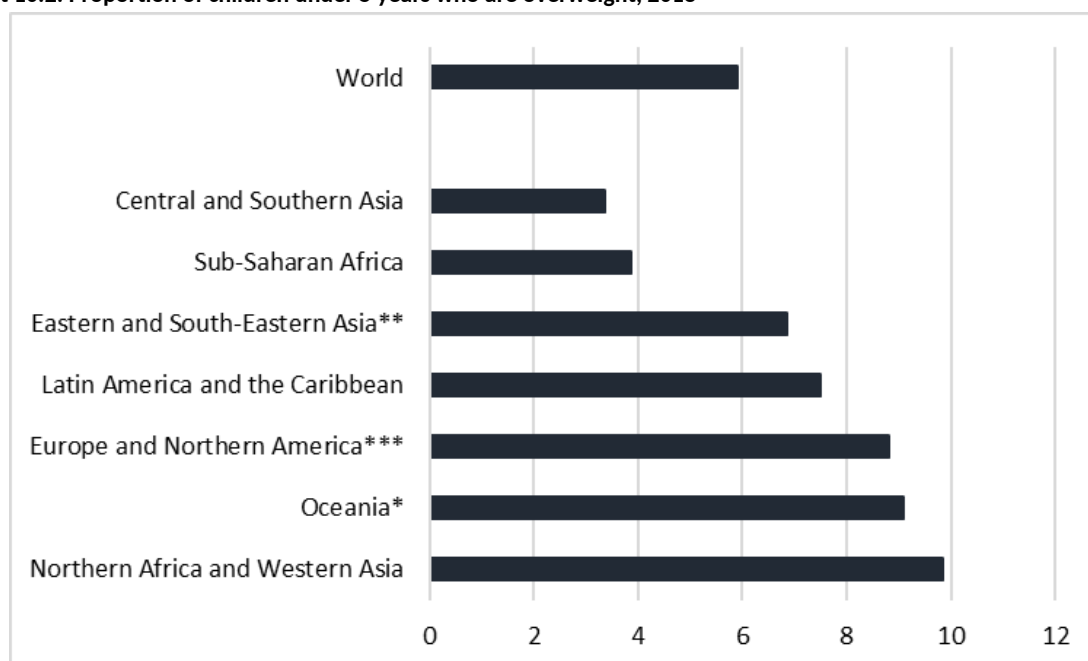
Source: UN Statistics Division (2023)

Notes: \* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

\*\* Excluding Japan.

\*\*\* Including estimates only for the United States of America. Confidence intervals are not available.

Chart 10.2: Proportion of children under 5 years who are overweight, 2018



Source: UN Statistics Division (2023)

Notes: \* Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

\*\* Excluding Japan.

\*\*\* Including estimates only for the United States of America. Confidence intervals are not available.

## Global Issues

### *Malnutrition, Wasting and Obesity*

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) consist of 17 goals underpinned by 169 targets. Goal 2, 'Zero Hunger', has 8 associated targets, one of which (2.2) is to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. The World Health Organisation, in their 'Sustainable Development Goals: health targets' report <sup>1</sup>, discuss the need to address all forms of malnutrition around the world. Malnutrition includes 'deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients.'<sup>2</sup> This categorisation includes both undernutrition, wasting and being underweight and obesity or being overweight. A report from the United Nations indicates that while stunting and wasting in children is declining (Chart 10.1), this decline is not happening fast enough to meet the SDG targets. In 2018, 7.3 per cent of the global under-5 population, or 49 million children under 5 years of age, suffered from acute undernutrition or wasting.

Chart 10.2 contains data on the proportion of the under-5 population who were overweight in 2018. Comparing this to Chart 10.1, it is clear that malnutrition and wasting are less of an issue in Europe and North America, however regions such as Oceania, Northern Africa and Western Asia contain high levels of both overweight and malnutrition in their under-5 population.

### *Migration*

Children represent 1 in 8 of migrants worldwide.<sup>3</sup> According to UNICEF, at the end

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2021-2574-42330-58595>

<sup>2</sup> What is malnutrition? Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016 (<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/malnutrition>, accessed 1 August 2023).

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.unicef.org/data-for-action/keeping-our-promises-stronger-data-for-children-on-the-move/>

of 2021, 36.5 million children were displaced from their homes due to violence, conflict and other crises. Of these, 22.8 million were internally displaced (within their country of origin), and 13.7 million were child refugees and asylum-seekers outside their country of origin.<sup>4</sup> While these official figures are indicative of great numbers of children who are experiencing displacement, more robust data is required to know more exact details of displaced persons globally.

While displacement from the Global South receives media and political attention as cause for concern in wealthy host countries such as Ireland, the majority of displaced persons are classified as internally displaced within their own country. For those who do arrive to Ireland, however, adequate supports must be made available to ensure a 'human-rights-first' approach to international protection.<sup>5</sup>

### **Policy Priorities**

- Invest €1 billion in Overseas Development Aid, Climate Finance, and Loss and Damage for the Global South in Budget 2024.
- Invest in a "human-rights-first" response to international protection.
- Convene a Working Group to develop a methodology for forecasting populations, to include all forms of migration, to properly plan for future services and infrastructure need.
- Take a leadership role in progressing the Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Roundtable on Migrations in Our Common Home, 2022. Planning for Change: Climate Change and Migration, Dublin: Social Justice Ireland.