transform nutrition WEST AFRICA

Country data profile

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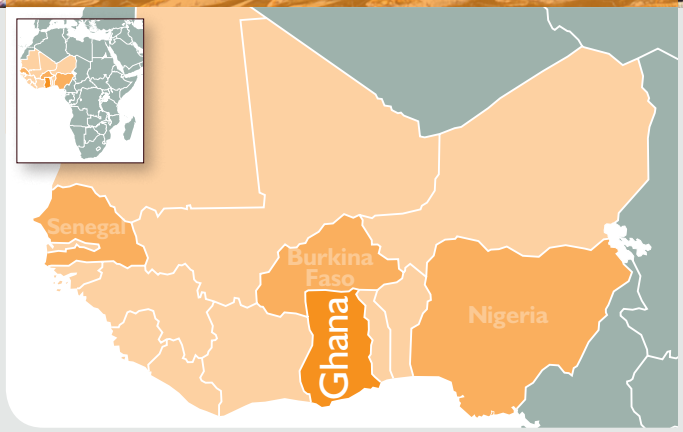
Women fish processors in West Africa.
PHOTO BY MINKOH, FAO/SFLP PROJECT

Ghana



Research objective

To enable data users to identify the best available data source for a set of 17 key nutrition indicators (see Table 1) according to priorities for the specific data use.

The purpose of this data profile is:

1 To summarize all available primary data sources and secondary data aggregation platforms[1] for key nutrition indicators representative at the national level in Ghana.
2 To assess the identified data sources for each indicator across four dimensions (see details in key to Table 2): (i) validity and comparability, (ii) timeliness, (iii) accessibility, and (iv) representativeness.
3 To identify data gaps in the national data system to effectively track progress on nutrition and/or inform policy and program decisions for improving nutrition in Ghana.

[1] All types of data aggregation platforms were included such as scorecards and data visualisation tools that reported on at least one of the target indicators for this assessment in a West African country.
[2] *Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework: Operational Guidance for Tracking Progress in Meeting Targets for 2025*, Geneva: WHO, 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
[3] WHO NCD monitoring framework.
[4] *Transform Nutrition West Africa* inception report. 2018

TABLE 1

17 key nutrition indicators

		WHA target	Nutrition status	Drivers
Children	U5 stunting	■	■	
	U5 wasting	■	■	
	U5 overweight	■	■	
	Low birthweight	■		■
	Exclusive breastfeeding	■		■
	Early initiation of breastfeeding			■
	U5 anaemia		■	
	Minimum acceptable diet			■
	Minimum dietary diversity			■
Women of reproductive age	Anaemia	■	■	
	Wasting		■	
	Obesity		■	
	Minimum dietary diversity			■
Adult	Sodium intake			■
	Hypertension			
	Diabetes			
	Overweight and obesity		■	

The indicators included in this assessment cover maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) status, underlying behaviours that drive nutritional status, and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Several of the indicators track Ghana's progress on global nutrition targets.[2,3] In addition, the selected indicators represent important regional nutrition challenges and priority issues.[4]

TABLE 2

Indicators		U5 stunting	U5 wasting	U5 overweight	Low birthweight	Exclusive breastfeeding	Early initiation of breastfeeding	U5 anaemia	Minimum acceptable diet	Minimum dietary diversity	Anaemia	Wasting/ thinness	Obesity	Minimum dietary diversity	Sodium intake	Hypertension	Diabetes	Overweight and obesity
Population		**Children**									**Women of reproductive age**				**Adults**			
Primary source[5]	**Quality**																	
Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) (2014)	**V**	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	-	++	-	++
	T	++	++	++	-	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++		-	-	-	-
	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+
	R	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++		++	++	++	++
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) (2011)	**V**	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
	T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					-			
	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+					+			
	R	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++					++			
Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) (1987/1988)	**V**	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	T	-	-															
	A	+	+															
	R	++	++															
Ghana Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Survey (CWIQ) (1997)	**V**	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	T	-	-															
	A	+	+															
	R	++	++															
Ghana micronutrient survey (GMS) (2017)	**V**	++	++	++	0	0	0	++	?	?	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	0
	T	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+				
	A	-	-	-				-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
	R	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+				
Socioeconomic Panel Survey (2009–2010)	**V**	?	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	T	-	-		-													
	A	++	++		++													
	R	++	++		++													
Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) (2016)	**V**	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	T							+										
	A							+										
	R							++										

KEY TO TABLE 2

Dimension	List of items	Rating	
V Validity/ comparability	Does the data source use the specified global measurement method for the indicator or can it be calculated from other indicators in the dataset?	++	Uses the standard measure and specifies the method of measurement/calculation
		+	Uses the standard measure, but no information is given on the method of measurement/calculation
		-	Uses a different measure than the standard & the standard measure cannot be calculated from other indicators in the dataset
		?	The measure is not specified in any way
T Timeliness	Does the data collection respect the recommended frequency for the indicator?	++	Data collected according to the recommended frequency and last data collection within the window
		+	Data not collected according to the recommended frequency, but last data collection within the window
		-	Data not collected according to the recommended frequency and last data collection not in the window
		?	No information on the year of collection
A Accessibility	Are the results of the survey published?	++	Report and datasets publicly available
		+	Report publicly available and datasets available after authorization
		-	Report publicly available but datasets not available
		?	No information on the survey retrieved
R Represent-ativeness	Is the survey representative at national and first-level administrative divisions?	++	Representative at national and first-level administrative divisions
		+	Representative at national level but not at first-level subdivision
		-	Subnational survey
		?	Representative at national level but no information on representativeness at first-level administrative divisions

[5] https://westafrica.transformnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DA_database_primary_sources_Final.xlsx

Search for all primary sources and data platforms completed in November 2018 and data quality validation completed in December 2018. See technical note for further details on search strategy and assessment approach: https://westafrica.transformnutrition.org/output/data-integration-assessment- technical-note/

TABLE 3

Indicators	U5 stunting	U5 wasting	U5 overweight	Low birthweight	Exclusive breastfeeding	Early initiation of breastfeeding	U5 anaemia	Minimum acceptable diet	Minimum dietary diversity	Anaemia	Wasting/thinness	Obesity	Minimum dietary diversity	Sodium intake	Hypertension	Diabetes	Overweight and obesity
Population	**Children**									**Women of reproductive age**				**Adults**			
Data platforms																	
UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition estimates	■	■	■														
Global health data exchange (IHME)	■	■															
WHO data	■	■	■				■			■		■			■	■	■
Scaling Up Nutrition	■	■	■	■	■					■						■	■
World Bank Development Indicators	■	■	■	■	■		■			■				■		■	
Our World in Data	■	■								■		■					■
Index Mundi	■	■	■	■	■		■			■				■		■	
Global Nutrition Report	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■
Countdown to 2030	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■					
Nutrition in the WHO African Region	■	■	■	■	■												
Atlas of the African Health Statistics	■	■	■	■	■							■			■	■	■
Alive & Thrive/UNICEF country nutrition profile	■	■		■													
UNICEF Global database on Infant and Young Child Feeding					■	■		■	■								
UNICEF Global database on Iodized salt														■			
UNICEF Global Low Birthweight database				■													
Spring Nutrition							■			■							
Iodine Global Network														■			
NCD Risk Factor Collaboration											■	■			■	■	■
Diabetes Atlas																■	

1 Primary data sources (Table 2) and data platforms (Table 3)

- Seven nationally representative primary data sources were identified. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) covers the greatest number of indicators (16) followed by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which covers 10 indicators.
- Nineteen data platforms were identified. Most platforms (10) use data directly from primary data sources, the DHS and MICS, although many use data from other platforms. The Global Nutrition Report covers the most indicators (16) followed by Countdown to 2030 (10).
- All indicators covering the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets are reported on.
- No data platforms report on the indicator of minimum dietary diversity among WRA.
- Indicators of child nutrition are covered by more data sources and platforms compared to indicators of adult nutrition.
- Indicators of nutrition status are covered by more data sources and platforms compared to indicators of nutrition drivers.

2 Assessment of primary data sources

- None of the data sources meet the highest standard across all four data source quality dimensions.
- All primary sources use the specified global measurement method for selected indicators, except for sodium intake, diabetes, and reported indicators in the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS), the Ghana Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Survey (CWIQ) and the Socioeconomic Panel Survey, where no information is provided. Information on the measurement method is also missing for minimum acceptable diet and minimum dietary diversity in the Ghana Micronutrient Survey (GMS).
- There is only one data source (DHS) reporting on hypertension, diabetes, and overweight/obesity among the general adult population which is not timely, nor valid in the case of diabetes.
- Four data sources are out of date and outside the window of recommended frequency for the indicators covered (MICS, GLSS, GMS, and the Socioeconomic Panel Survey). The most recent data are from the GMS (2017), which is not within the recommended frequency for reported indicators. The DHS is timely and up-to-date for all indicators, except for low birthweight, sodium intake, hypertension, diabetes, overweight/obesity, however it's score will be downgraded in 2019 without new data. The Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) is not within the recommended frequency for the one indicator it covers (U5 anaemia).
- A publicly accessible report is available for all data sources, however, only one dataset (the Socioeconomic Panel Survey) is publicly available, while five datasets are accessible only after receiving authorization (DHS, MICS, GLSS, CWIQ, and MIS), and one (the GMS) is not publicly accessible.
- All data sources are representative at the national and a first-level administrative division except for the Ghana Micronutrient Survey, which is only representative at the national level and at each of the three agroecological zones (the Southern Belt, the Middle Belt and the Northern Belt).

3 Identification of data gaps

- No platform reports on minimum dietary diversity among WRA as a measure of diet quality for this population.
- Data are lacking on key indicators of diet-related NCDs in Ghana to report on NCD targets informatively.
- Most data sources are not timely and are out of date. To optimally inform policy and program processes and track progress, data should be collected within the recommended frequency for each given indicator.

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