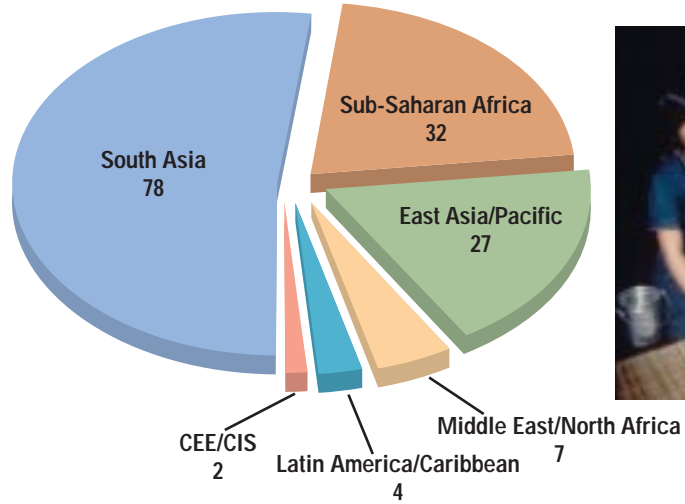


Children 2002: Charting Change

150 million children in developing countries are malnourished

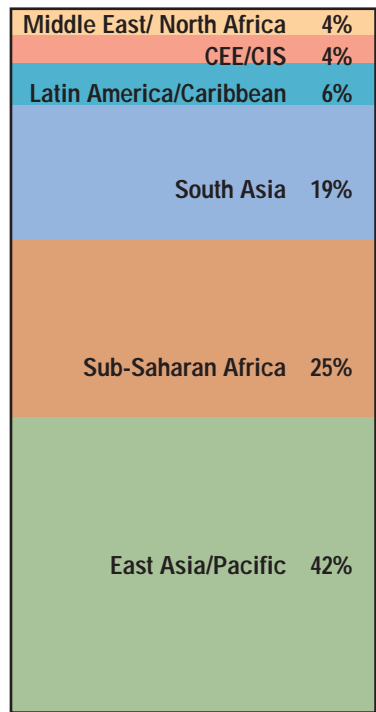
More than half of underweight children live in South Asia



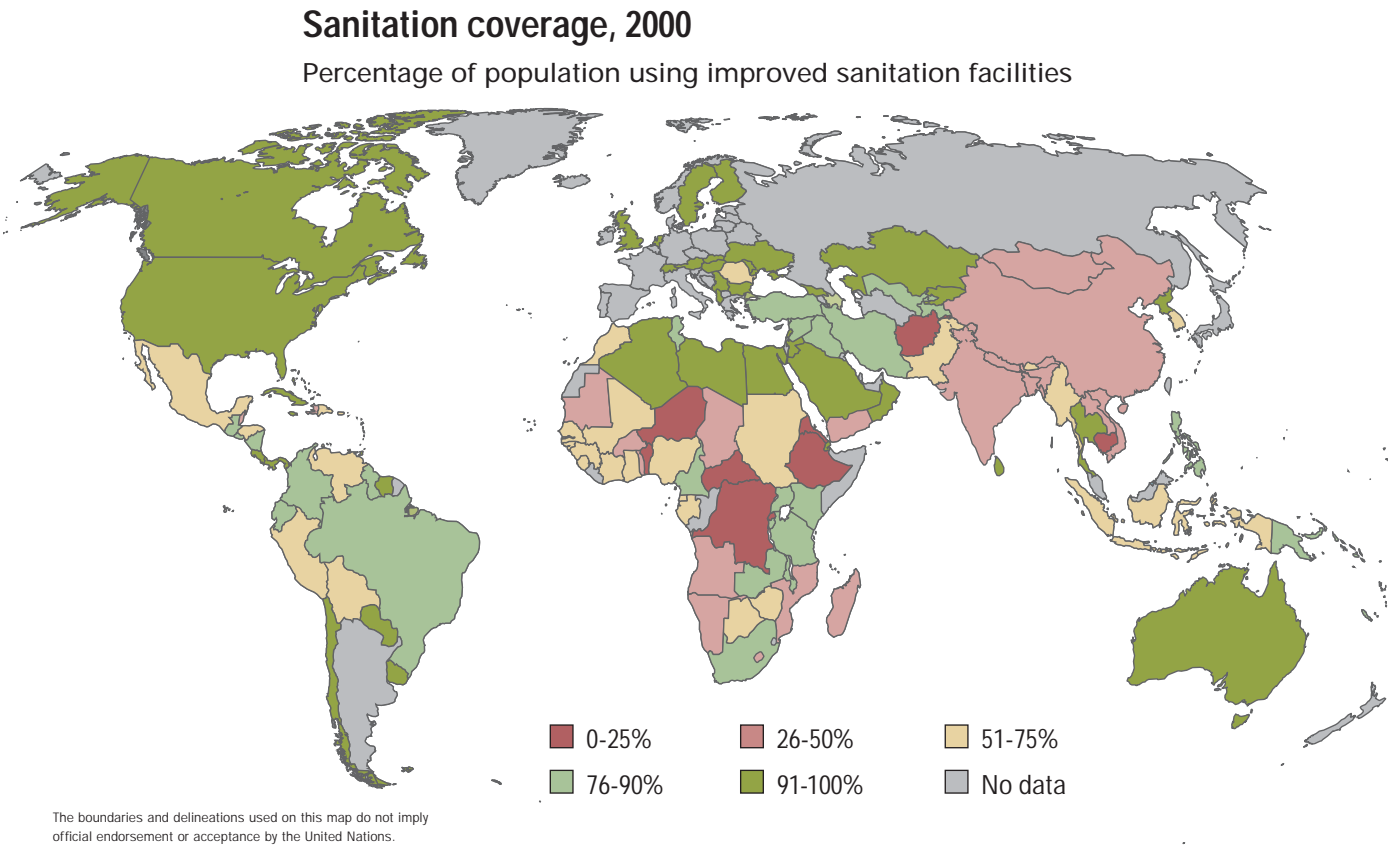
Every year, over 10 million children under the age of five die from readily preventable and treatable illnesses, such as diarrhoeal dehydration, acute respiratory infection, measles and malaria. In half of the cases, illness is complicated by malnutrition. The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness was developed in 1992 by the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, with the aim of prevention or early detection and treatment of the leading childhood killers.

Malnutrition is implicated in more than half of all child deaths worldwide. Three quarters of the children who die from causes related to malnutrition were only mildly or moderately undernourished, showing no outward sign of their vulnerability. Poverty, low levels of education and poor access to health services are major contributors to childhood malnutrition, a complex issue that requires tackling on a wide number of fronts, such as:

- ✓ Ensuring food security for poor households;
- ✓ Educating families in the special nutritional needs of young children;
- ✓ Protecting children from infections, through immunization against childhood diseases and provision of safe water and sanitation.



1.1 billion people are without access to safe drinking water



Access to water is a crucial element in the reduction of under-five mortality and morbidity, particularly in poor urban areas.

- ✓ *Diarrhoea*. About 4 billion cases per year cause 2.2 million deaths, mostly among children under five;
- ✓ *Trachoma*. About 6 million people are blind from trachoma. Provision of adequate water supply could reduce the infection rate by 25 per cent;
- ✓ *Schistosomiasis*. About 200 million people are infected. Adequate water supply and sanitation could reduce infection rate by 77 per cent;
- ✓ *Cholera*. This worldwide problem can be prevented by access to safe drinking water, sanitation and good hygiene.

In more than 30 countries, covering 35 per cent of the developing world population, 19 per cent of 5- to 14-year-olds work. Sub-Saharan Africa shows the highest proportions of children working. Two thirds of those working do so for a family farm or business. Less than 5 per cent are:

- ✓ engaged in paid or unpaid work for someone outside the household;
- ✓ assigned housekeeping chores for four or more hours per day.

There are no significant differences between boys and girls in the proportion working. But there are substantial urban-rural differences: 21 per cent work in rural areas; and 13 per cent work in urban areas.

