

## Action brief

# Chronic Malnutrition Index – Colombia

**Country:** Colombia**Topics:** Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL)**Sub-topics:** National Boards**Date:** April 2023

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## Overview



*Colombia is not a SUN member country.*

The Chronic Malnutrition Index is a territorial monitoring tool created by Fundación Éxito (Success Foundation) to identify the determinants of chronic malnutrition in Colombia based on official information sources. This tool is necessary to provide an indicator on the territorial risk of malnutrition in early childhood in the country, as there are no updated official measurements. Data-driven decisions can help prevent and manage possible cases of stunting.



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## Objectives of the action brief

The index aims to provide a synthetic measurement that helps guide public policy decision-making at national and territorial levels.



## Period covered

The index was carried out for the fifth year running in 2022, and results are available for 2015–2020.



## What action was taken?

The Chronic Malnutrition Index is a composite measurement that aggregates and summarizes 14 variables that are considered determinants of chronic malnutrition and for which disaggregated data exist at the municipal level. These data are public but had not yet been used to study chronic malnutrition.

This index was created in 2018 through a partnership between the Fundación Éxito and EAFIT University in Medellín. Since then, the Fundación Éxito has taken the lead in updating and improving the index, with expert validation.

Over several years, officials adjusted the methodology to minimize estimate errors and expand the territory covered. It is now available for all municipalities in the country, and the exercise can be replicated every year, depending on the availability of administrative data provided by the Government of Colombia.

This tool has used official microdata publicly available for the past six years to report the relative risk of chronic malnutrition for the 1,122 municipalities in the country and generate a key indicator.

The index has been useful in the creation of recommendations for national and local development plans, and it alerts authorities to the criticality of chronic malnutrition in specific regions, such as areas where the situation has deteriorated.

An annual press, radio and television communication campaign triggers public debate and raises awareness among citizens.



## What would the country do differently?

The main challenge with the Chronic Malnutrition Index was the limited number of indicators compared to the determinants of chronic malnutrition. However, the variables available are significant for understanding the risks. Therefore, although a more robust model would have been desirable, the simplicity of the index and its ability to reach all territories in the country help make it a success.

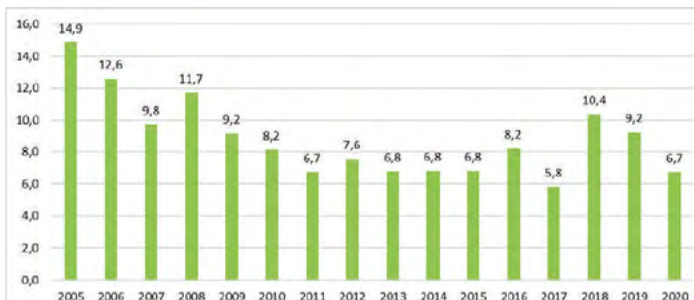




## Adaptation and applicability

- This is a methodology that can be replicated by other countries that have microdata with territorial disaggregation and where these data are publicly available.

Tasa de mortalidad por desnutrición en menores de 5 años 2005 - 2020



Source: DANE



## What was the role of the SUN Movement in this good practice?

Several Colombian universities collaborated in validating the methodology and results of the tool.



## Next steps

- The idea is to continue generating this indicator regularly and to explore phenomena related to complementary studies that further explain the multiple causes of chronic malnutrition.
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- Moreover, this tool serves as an input to highlight success stories that demonstrate enabling conditions and government actions related to the fight against stunting.



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## Further information



<https://blog.fundacionexito.org/indice-de-desnutricion-cronica-2022>

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