

審査の結果の要旨

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This study was conducted to assess the situation of malnutrition (stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight) in under-5 children in the region of Central Asia and within each country of the region. The main objectives of the study included, first, to determine the changes in malnutrition in under-5 children in the regions, and, second, to assess the socioeconomic inequalities in malnutrition in under-5 children in the Central Asian region. For analysis, the following data were used: the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) for two study periods: 2005-2006 and 2014-2017.

The key finding of the study are as follows:

1. The prevalence of malnutrition in under-5 children decreased across all countries and all malnutrition conditions. The prevalence of stunting among under-5 children in the Central Asian region decreased from 22.7% in 2005-2006 to 12.8% in 2014-2017. The prevalence of wasting in the region decreased from 5.9% to 4.0%. The prevalence of underweight in the region decreased from 8.0% to 4.2%. The prevalence of overweight in the region decreased from 10.5% to 6.3%. These findings suggest that the Central Asian region already achieved some of the internationally agreed targets on malnutrition in under-5 children which are: the reduction of 40% in the number of under-5 children who are stunted, the reduction and maintenance of the prevalence of wasting at 5%, and no increase in overweight in under-5 children and maintenance of the prevalence at 6% by 2025. The prevalence of overweight in the region was still over 6% in 2014-2017, however, the rapid decrease in prevalence in the region suggests the possibility to achieve the target by 2025.
2. The region has achieved success in reducing malnutrition in under-5 children, some of the countries have not yet achieved the stated targets, specifically Tajikistan in terms of undernutrition conditions. The prevalence of stunting,

wasting and underweight in Tajikistan was 17.6%, 8.7% and 12.8%, respectively, in 2014-2017.

3. Regarding the socioeconomic inequalities in under-5 children, the small association was detected between the changes in the prevalence of malnutrition and socioeconomic inequalities in malnutrition. Despite the decrease in the prevalence of malnutrition across the countries of the Central Asian region, socioeconomic inequalities still persisted. Moreover, a shift of concentration of socioeconomic inequalities was observed from poor population to rich population in some of malnutrition conditions. For example, while in 2005-2006 there were almost no inequalities in wasting in under-5 children, in 2014-2017 the socioeconomic inequalities were mainly concentrated among children from rich households.

The Central Asian region has achieved a success in reducing the prevalence of malnutrition at both national and sub-national levels. However, Tajikistan is still behind other countries of the region in terms of the improvements in malnutrition, especially undernutrition, in under-5 children since the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight still remains high when compared to other countries of the region. Although the prevalence of malnutrition in the Central Asian region decreased, the socioeconomic inequalities were still present in some of malnutrition conditions. This suggests weak association between the reduction of malnutrition prevalence in under-5 children and socioeconomic inequalities. In order to decrease the socioeconomic inequalities in malnutrition in under-5 children in the Central Asian region, governments of Central Asian countries need to concentrate their efforts on the improvement of socioeconomic status of currently poor households through empowerment of economically disadvantaged groups of population.