Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)
2025 Comprehensive Review Proposal Submission Form

Background
In accordance with GA Resolution 71/313, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will conduct a Comprehensive Review of the global indicator framework in 2024 with the aim to submit its proposed revisions, replacements, additions and deletions to the 56th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2025 for its consideration.

Types of proposal
Proposals will fall into one of these four groups:

A. **Replacement**: a proposal to replace an existing indicator for an SDG target with a different indicator; will be considered if the existing indicator does not map well to the target or does not track the target well.

B. **Revisions/adjustments**: a proposal to revise or adjust an existing indicator for an SDG target; will be considered if the current indicator does not map well to the target or does not track the target well.

C. **Additions**: a proposal to add an additional indicator for an SDG target; may be considered only in exceptional cases when a crucial aspect of a target is not being monitored by the current indicator(s) or to address a critical or emerging new issue that is not monitored by the existing indicators.

D. **Deletions**: a proposal to delete an existing indicator for an SDG target; may be considered when a tier II indicator has not been able to submit any data to the global SDG monitoring or is proven to be challenging for countries to implement. A proposal to delete an indicator will not be considered if it is the only indicator monitoring the corresponding target.

Guideline/checklist
To help prepare the proposal, below are some guiding principles and helpful and/or required information. The IAEG-SDGs will not be able to properly review and consider submissions without the required information.

- The review aims to maintain the same number of indicators currently in the framework to not alter significantly the original framework, which is already being implemented in most countries and to not increase the reporting burden on national statistical systems.

- A proposed indicator must have an agreed methodology (tier III indicator proposals will not be considered) and data available for at least 40% of countries and of the population across the different regions where the indicator is relevant and be suitable for global monitoring.

- The addition of a sub-indicator within an existing indicator is discouraged as it adds to the reporting burden.

- Each submission proposal must include:
  - Background and rationale for the indicator proposal
  - Information on how and when the methodology has become an international standard and who is the governing body that approves it (except for proposals to only delete an indicator)
  - Link to available data and/or link to where data can be located (except for proposals to delete an indicator)
  - Completed metadata template (except for proposals to only delete an indicator). The metadata of proposed revisions/adjustments must be submitted with the track changes.

- Except for proposals to delete an indicator, it is highly recommended to consult the appropriate custodian agency(ies) prior to submitting the proposal to use their indicator.

For more information on the 2025 Comprehensive Review process, please refer to the following webpage.


If you encounter issues with the online form, please contact the IAEG-SDGs Secretariat ([statistics@un.org](mailto:statistics@un.org)).
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To be completed by and submitted to the Secretariat for the IAEG-SDGs review during the 2025 Comprehensive Review. All fields are required unless otherwise indicated; incomplete forms will not be considered. Please use one submission form per proposal. If you have more than one proposal, please submit one form for each proposal.

### Submitter information

Please enter information about the focal point of this submission.

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<tr>
<th>Full Name:</th>
<th>Agency/organization name:</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Global Breastfeeding Collective/UNICEF</td>
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Please list other contacts and other agencies/organizations (if any) associated with this submission below.

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### Type of proposal

1. This is a proposal for a(n): (please select only one):
   - **☐ REPLACEMENT**: to replace an existing indicator for an SDG target with a different indicator.
   - **☐ REVISION/ADJUSTMENT**: to revise or adjust an existing indicator for an SDG target.
   - **☒ ADDITION**: to add an additional indicator for an SDG target.
   - **☐ DELETION**: to delete an existing indicator for an SDG target.

2. Please enter the SDG Target this proposal is for (please enter the SDG target number. For example, 11.c):

   **Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**
   
   **Target 2.2:** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

3a. For "REPLACEMENT" or "DELETION" proposals, please enter the indicator name and number you are proposing to replace or delete:

   Click or tap here to enter text.

3b. For "ADDITION" proposals, please enter the name of the indicator you are proposing to add:

   Exclusive Breastfeeding among infants 0-6 months old

3c. For "REVISION/ADJUSTMENT" proposals, please enter the existing indicator name and number you are proposing to revise/adjust:
Breastfeeding is essential for child survival and health. Breast milk is a safe, natural, nutritious, and sustainable food for infants and young children. Breast milk contains antibodies that help protect against many common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea and respiratory diseases. It is estimated that inadequate breastfeeding is responsible for 16% of child deaths each year.

The benefits of exclusive breastfeeding reach far beyond optimal nutrition for infants. Breastfed infants have a lower risk for childhood obesity and leukemia, as well as a significant reduction in the life-threatening necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The benefits extend to the mother as well, lowering her risk of cancers such as breast, ovarian, cervical, and thyroid. Together, these unparalleled benefits make this indicator paramount even in high-income countries.

In 2012, the World Health Assembly Resolution 65.6 endorsed a comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, which specified a set of six global nutrition targets. One of the targets is to increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding among infants less than 6 months of age up to at least 50% by 2025.

Only four of the six nutrition target indicators are currently in the SDG indicators list - childhood stunting, wasting, overweight, and anaemia (indicators 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3) – and this is insufficient to effectively capture the SDG goal to end all forms of malnutrition. The WHA chose six targets based on their epidemiological and public health relevance, available evidence-based interventions, alignment with relevant policies, and the ability to monitor changes. Achieving these targets is feasible for all countries, regardless of income level. The global nutrition targets and SDG target indicators on nutrition don’t completely overlap. The 2024 SDG review presents an opportunity to align them. Currently, there is only one target (target 2.2) and four indicators that cover nutrition within the SDGs.

Globally, rates of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months of life have increased by 10 percentage points over the past decade and are at 48% in 2023, close to the World Health Assembly target of 50% by 2025. Progress is happening across different regions, with numerous countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania documenting large increases in exclusive breastfeeding, including 22 countries up more than 10 percentage points since 2017.

The Global Breastfeeding Collective is co-led by UNICEF and WHO in partnership with 28 organisations calling on donors and policy makers to increase investments in breastfeeding. The Collective has set a target of 70% for exclusive breastfeeding rates by 2030. Despite the remarkable progress made in exclusive breastfeeding rates over the past decade, there is still a long way to go to reach this target of 70%. By adding these indicators under target 2.2, governments can focus on various actions required to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, including increasing exclusive breastfeeding rates.

Global indicators for evaluating infant feeding practices, including exclusive breastfeeding, were first introduced in 1991 through the publication of the document "Indicators for assessing breastfeeding practices." This document provided a set of indicators to measure the progress of breastfeeding promotion efforts. Since then, there have been significant advancements in the recommendations for infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and scientific knowledge about optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices. As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) released an extended set of IYCF indicators in 2008 to keep up with these developments. In 2021, UNICEF and WHO
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also released an updated “Indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding practices: definitions and measurement methods.” The methodology for assessing exclusive breastfeeding remains the same as in the past 3 decades.

6. Link(s) to available data and/or to where data can be located to demonstrate the 40% coverage threshold (except for proposals to only delete an indicator)

Data can be accessed online at https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/infant-young-child-feeding/. The database is updated annually. Data are available for 133 countries that comprise 92% of annual births globally.

7. In case the current data coverage is below 50%, is there a plan for how the data coverage will be expanded? Please elaborate on it (except for proposals to only delete an indicator).

NA

8. Conclusion/other comments (please enter any other information about the proposal):

The SDG target for nutrition (SDG 2.2), which calls to end all forms of malnutrition, would be well covered by expanding the number and types of nutrition indicators. Breastfeeding is singularly the most effective public health intervention we have to give all children everywhere the best start in life, and exclusive breastfeeding is a crucial nutrition indicator with far-reaching impacts across the life cycle for both mother and child. All member states adopted exclusive breastfeeding as a World Health Assembly Nutrition target, and member states are doing regular reporting, with many countries already experiencing significant progress. While progress in exclusive breastfeeding is happening in many countries, it is still insufficient, and a lot more is required to be done by many countries to achieve the 70% target set by the Collective by 2030. Therefore, including the exclusive breastfeeding indicator within target 2.2 would increase the diversity of areas monitored for nutrition within the SDG agenda and support political attention and commitment at the global and country levels to increase the percentage of infants who benefit from this crucial nutrition practice.

9. Metadata file (except for proposals to only delete an indicator).

X I/We have attached the appropriate metadata file to this proposal.

10. Acknowledgement.

X I/We have read and understand the information regarding the guiding principles, criteria and requirements for the 2025 Comprehensive Review proposals listed above.