

# New Hidden Hunger map: Global distribution of iodine deficiency differs from other micronutrient deficiencies

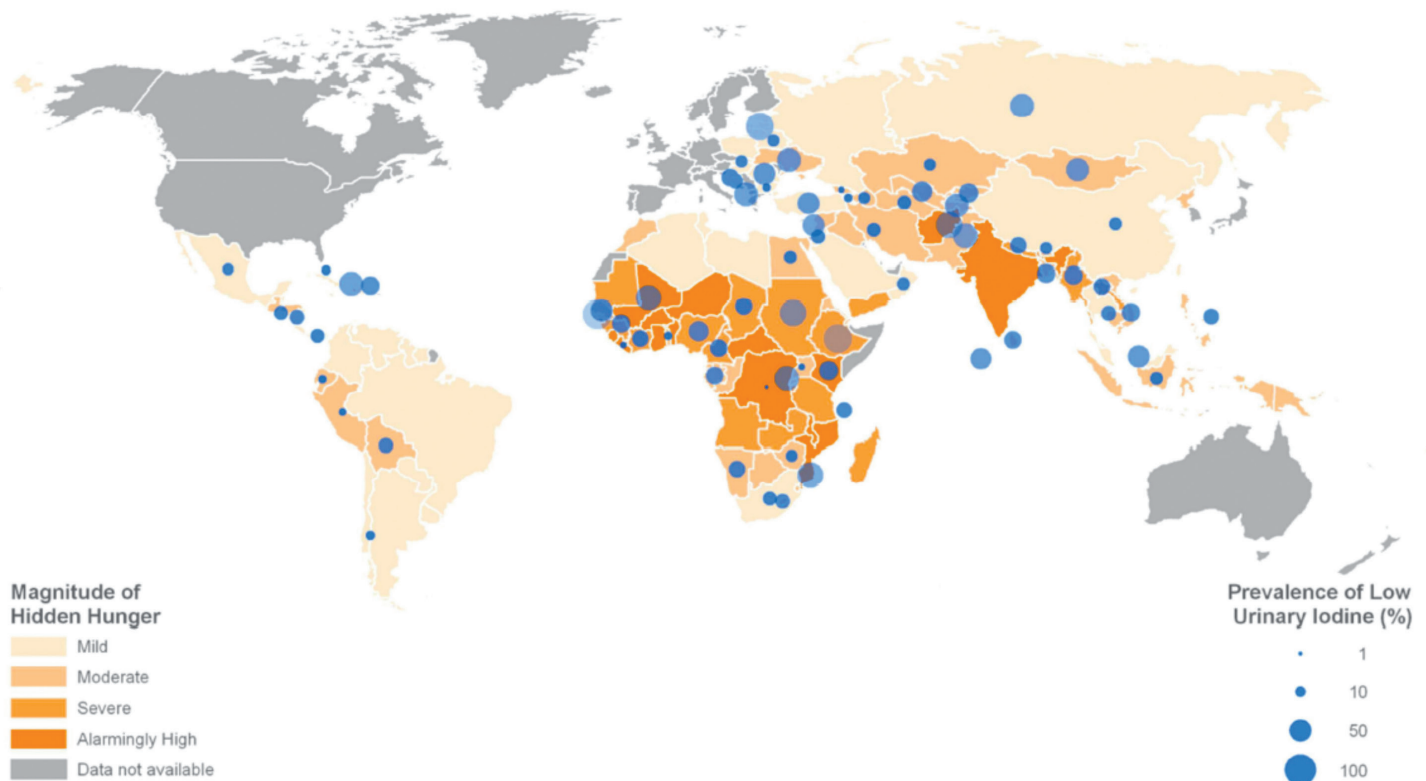
The unified global efforts to mitigate the high burden of vitamin and mineral deficiency, known as hidden hunger, in populations around the world are crucial to the achievement of most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Indices and maps of global hidden hunger are useful to help prioritize program assistance, and to serve as an evidence-based global advocacy tool.

A new global map of hidden hunger due to micronutrient deficiencies has been developed (Figure 1). A number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as India and Afghanistan, had an alarmingly high level of hidden hunger, with stunting, iron deficiency anemia, and vitamin A deficiency all being highly prevalent.

The pattern and magnitude of iodine deficiency did not conform to that of other micronutrients. The greatest proportions of children with iodine deficiency were in the Eastern Mediterranean (46.6%), European (44.2%), and African (40.4%) regions.

The current indices and maps provide crucial data to optimize the prioritization of program assistance addressing global multiple micronutrient deficiencies.

**Figure 1: Magnitude of hidden hunger (zinc, iron and vitamin A deficiencies), prevalence of iodine deficiency (based on the percentage of children with a urinary iodine concentration <100 micrograms per liter)**



Read the complete article:

Muthayya S, Rah JH, Sugimoto JD, Roos FF, Kraemer K, et al. (2013) The Global Hidden Hunger Indices and Maps: An Advocacy Tool for Action. PLoS ONE 8(6): e67860. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0067860