

State Mapping Note: Severe wasting among children under 5

World Suffering Index | Experimental USU Pilot Release v1.1 | Private-public research output

Approved pilot mapping

Intensity mapping: 2 / 4 / 6. Duration: one day. Model: daily-equivalent, $p=1$, no overlap. Maturity: P1 illustrative.

Source definition and interpretation

Severe wasting is represented by the JME severe-wasting category below -3 SD. The mapping recognizes heterogeneous cases from uncomplicated outpatient wasting to more serious acute conditions.

The mapping is an author-defined pilot interpretation for WSI. It is not provided by UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, JME, or any clinical guideline.

Included and excluded harms

Included: direct daily experiential burden plausibly associated with anthropometric wasting, such as reduced energy, weakness, irritability, low activity, hunger or appetite disruption, and discomfort where experienced.

Excluded: death, mortality risk as such, infections, medical complications, long-term developmental loss, caregiver suffering, and health-system burden.

Ethical limitations

This mapping is intentionally cautious because anthropometric status is not a direct report of subjective experience and because children under 5 cannot be assumed to use an adult 0-10 experiential scale. External nutrition, clinical, caregiver, and lived-experience review is required before the mapping can be treated as more than illustrative.