
Subject: Re: Child Health and WASH

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2021 20:12:49 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Lead Nutrition Research Associate, Rukundo Benedict:

It is possible to consider stunting, wasting, and underweight as continuous variables since these are defined based on WHO Z-score cut-offs. In a regression these can be considered binary (e.g. stunted or not) or continuous if using the height-for-age (HAZ), weight-for height (WHZ) or weight-for-age (WAZ) z-scores.

Child growth failure (CGF) is another way to describe undernutrition, that excludes micronutrient deficiencies. The indicator that you created for child growth failure is a composite and is based on those identified as stunted ($HAZ < -2SD$), wasted ($WHZ < -2SD$), and underweight ($WAZ < -2SD$) and as such the variable you created is binary. Since each of the variables (stunting, wasting, and underweight) are unique measures of child growth failure, it's not possible to create or use z-score for the CGF. However, you could examine the three indicators HAZ, WHZ, and WAZ separately as continuous variables since they are all measures of child growth failure.
