

Table 1 Basic characteristic of children participating in the study

Variable	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Syrian Arab Republic	Morocco	Djibouti	Yemen
Type and year of survey	MICS 2, 2003	PAPFAM, 2001	PAPFAM, 2003–2004	PAPFAM, 2002	PAPFAM, 2003
Country classification for underweight ^a	Low	Low	Low	Intermediate	Very high
Sample size	7232	5454	5380	1538	10924
GNI per capita (US\$) ^b	5540	1160	1320	910	520
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Residence					
Urban	6056 (83.7)	1662 (30.5)	5752 (51.2)	1215 (79.0)	2243 (20.5)
Suburban	–	906 (16.6)	–	249 (16.2)	–
Rural	1176 (16.3)	2886 (52.9)	2628 (48.8)	74 (4.8)	8681 (79.5)
Sex					
Male	3608 (49.9)	2804 (51.4)	2672 (49.7)	780 (50.8)	5658 (51.8)
Female	3624 (50.1)	2650 (48.6)	2709 (50.3)	757 (49.2)	5266 (48.2)
Socioeconomic classification					
Privileged	690 (9.5)	1459 (26.8)	1342 (25.3)	612 (34.8)	3898 (35.8)
Intermediate	4125 (57.0)	1809 (33.2)	2265 (42.3)	220 (14.3)	3606 (33.1)
Underprivileged	2417 (33.4)	2177 (40.0)	1747 (32.6)	706 (45.9)	3381 (31.1)
Age (years)					
≤ 1	1295 (17.9)	887 (16.3)	1047 (19.5)	206 (15.2)	2262 (20.7)
> 1–≤ 2	1418 (19.6)	975 (17.9)	1052 (19.6)	286 (21.2)	2118 (19.4)
> 2–≤ 3	1466 (20.3)	1210 (22.2)	1043 (19.4)	292 (21.6)	2160 (19.8)
> 3–≤ 4	1663 (23.0)	1231 (22.6)	1178 (21.9)	282 (20.9)	2240 (20.5)
> 4–≤ 5	1390 (19.2)	1151 (21.1)	1060 (19.7)	285 (21.1)	2144 (19.6)

^aBased on WHO Statistical Information System (<http://www.who.int/whosis/data/Search.jsp>, accessed 27 November 2008) and Global prevalence of underweight among children under age five. Map Design Unit of the World Bank (<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NUTRITION/Resources/281846-1131636806329/NutritionStrategyMaps.pdf>, accessed 27 November 2008).

^bSource: World Bank, 2003 [39].

GNI = gross national income.