Progress in reducing hunger is assessed against two key targets: the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) target aims at halving the number of undernourished by 2015, while the hunger target of Millennium Development Goal One (MDG 1) aims at halving the proportion of hungry people by 2015.

In 2011-13, a total of 821 million people were hungry in developing regions. This number has fallen by 168 million, or 17 percent, since 1990-92.

Among the 15 ECOWAS-member countries, the number of undernourished individuals dropped from 45 million in 1990-92 to approximately 34.5 million in 2011-13. The prevalence of undernourishment fell from 24 percent to 15 percent between 1990-92 and 2011-13, partly due to rapid population expansion. This implies that, as a region, West Africa has achieved the hunger target of MDG 1.

Six countries in the region have already achieved the MDG 1 hunger target: Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Togo, and Nigeria.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment. It recorded hunger 14.9 percent in 1990-92 to 5.8 in 2011-13, very high 24.8 percent in 2010-12. This also implies that West Africa fares better than other regions in sub-Saharan Africa.

This map was produced with support from the Government of Germany.