

Table 2 Mean nutritional indicators and relevant statistics

Variable	All subjects		Children		Girls	Adult women	
	Mean (SD)	Median	< 5 years	5-< 10 years	10-17 years	18-45 years	> 45 years
SRC ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	263 (79)	247	240 (52.8)	233 (56.0)	ND	295 (82.8)	322 (110.7)
<i>n</i>	124		45	29	0	33	17
STC (mg/L)	7.80 (5.21)	6.89	6.98 (1.28)	6.33 (1.29)	ND	9.86 (9.56)	8.18 (2.7)
<i>n</i>	123		44	29	0	33	17
SFC ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	21.1 (13.8)	14.7	19.0 (12.9)	15.7 (9.5)	ND	18.2 (15.7)	36.6 (35.2)
<i>n</i>	117		42	26	0	32	17
Hb (g/L)	117 (13)	118	111 (11.1)	115 (12.0)	120 (12.4)	119 (14.2)	118 (12.7)
<i>n</i>	737		122	171	154	243	47
MCHC (g/dL)	30.46 (2.04)	30.43	30.38 (1.88)	30.43 (1.60)	30.67 (1.66)	30.35 (2.56)	30.73 (2.01)
<i>n</i>	737		122	171	154	243	47

SD = standard deviation; *ND* = not done; *SRC* = serum retinol concentration; *STC* = serum α -tocopherol concentration; *SFC* = serum ferritin concentration; *Hb* = haemoglobin concentration; *MCHC* = mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration.

Spearman correlations, using the 2-tailed significance test: SRC with Hb ($r = 0.60$, $P < 0.001$), SRC with SFC ($r = 0.37$, $P < 0.001$), SFC with Hb ($r = 0.23$, $P < 0.01$).