

COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

ANGOLA



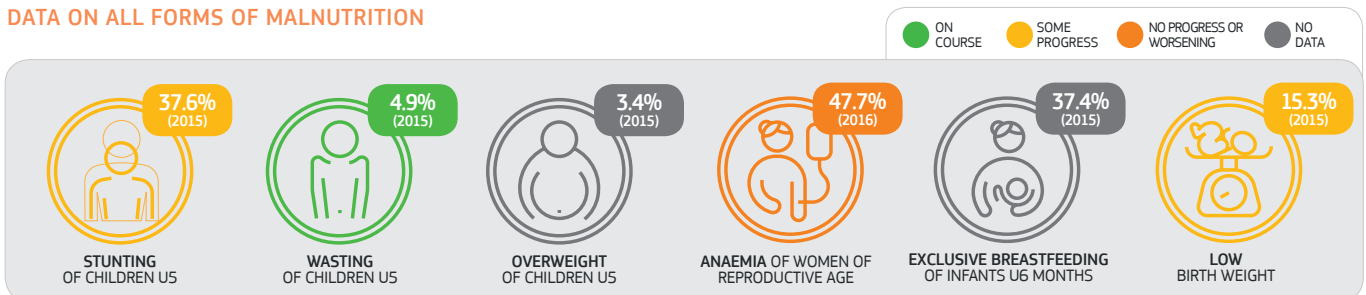
Nutrition situation in Angola

AT A GLANCE

Angola has a population of 31.8 million people, projected to reach 44.8 million by 2030. The country has made progress in reducing child stunting despite the civil war, which ended in 2002, but rates have deteriorated since the 2014 socio-economic crisis. Other forms of malnutrition coexist in Angola, including wasting, anaemia and rising levels of overweight and obesity across all age groups. Trends mask large geographic and socio-economic disparities; malnutrition affects the most vulnerable layers of society and significant gender inequalities persist¹. Food and/or nutrition crises are recurrent due to drought, flooding, disease outbreaks and critical levels of food insecurity in southern provinces. The COVID-19 crisis hit at a time when people

were still rebuilding their livelihoods following a prolonged drought, and worsened the precarious situation, particularly for the agricultural sector, the main source of food and income for the poor (reported impacts include inflation, loss of labour opportunities in the informal sector, rising unemployment²). Recent projections indicate that the country will not meet global nutrition targets. The social and economic costs of malnutrition are serious, impacting on entire generations and likely to diminish the productive capacity and performance of Angolans. Angola has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.536 and is ranked at 132 of 162 countries in the 2019 index.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- Angola has not yet joined the Scaling Up Nutrition movement.
- Angola's commitment to nutrition started in 2005 with the national food security and nutrition strategy and action plan 2009-2013 and the definition of a multisectoral food security and nutrition council, which established key milestones to institutionalise food and nutrition security in Angola. However, the framework was poorly implemented, and problems were later compounded by the economic crisis and diminishing public spending.
- Efforts are under way to develop a national multisectoral nutrition policy and strategy to address all forms of malnutrition (under the coordination of the Ministry of Health) and the second national strategy for food and nutrition security (2020-2030).
- The national development plan 2018-2022 offers opportunities to better integrate nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. The main challenges include a lack of nutrition data, weak information systems and poor national resource mobilisation.
- No legislation exists regarding food fortification in Angola.

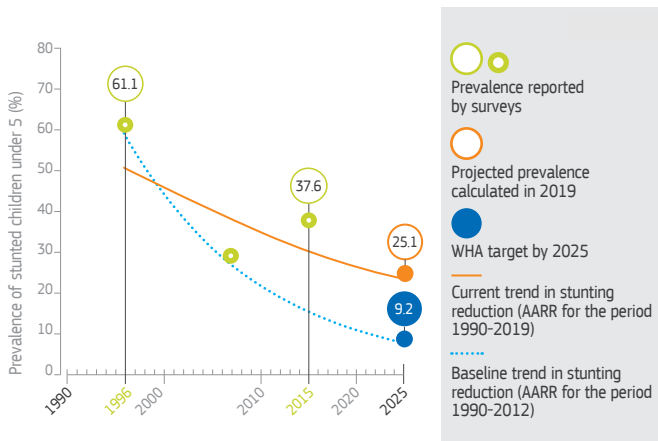
Example of EU support

A flagship EU programme, Strengthening Resilience and Food and Nutrition Security in Angola (FRESAN, up to EUR 65 million for 2017-2024), aims to contribute to reducing hunger, poverty and vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity in three southern provinces. Nutrition security is mainstreamed across several of the programme's components, including diversifying food production, nutrition-focused seasonal social transfers and information and awareness raising on nutrition at community level. At the local level, FRESAN also supports initiatives around food reserves systems and water harvesting infrastructure and management for both irrigation and consumption (human and livestock) – water playing a pivotal role for nutrition security in these drought-prone communities. FRESAN offers an important opportunity to learn from putting into practice an integrated approach to strengthen resilience in fragile context. Through an operational research component, the programme aims to build on the learning experiences and effectiveness of nutrition actions to inform planning and decision-making for future initiatives to strengthen resilience in Angola.

ANGOLA

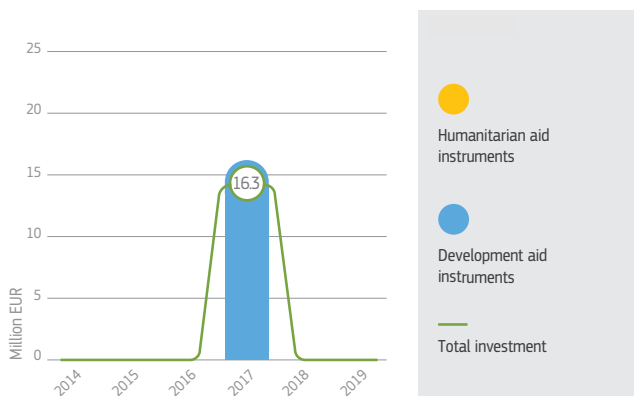
Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

TREND, PROJECTION AND TARGETS IN THE PREVALENCE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (U5) STUNTED



Angola has experienced a marked decline in the prevalence of stunting since the mid 1990s, but the number of stunted children has not decreased much due to population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has decelerated notably from 6.49% in 2012 to 2.55% in 2019. If this trend persists, approximately 1.64 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025.

EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019 – A TOTAL OF EUR 16 MILLION



The EU contributes up to EUR 65 million (of which EUR 16.3 million for nutrition) to the FRESAN programme (see example above). It aims to contribute to reducing hunger, poverty and vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity in three central and southern Angolan provinces most affected by climate change, including Cunene, Namibe and Huila. The role of FRESAN in these provinces is both strategic and synergistic as it complements other actions focused more on addressing health and humanitarian issues.

Opportunities ahead

Gender and nutrition are important cross-cutting themes having potential to be strengthened in the government's efforts to address socio-economic as well as climate change priorities. The national development plan 2018-2022 has underscored the importance of integrating nutrition across different sectors. In this regard, the Team Europe Initiative on economic diversification – including the transformation of the informal economy into the formal economy – provides a relevant framework to improve nutrition outcomes. For instance, the Team Europe approach could focus on the transformation of food systems including for local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in food processing, storage and distribution, offering entry points to reduce inequalities, promote healthy diets, enhance women's empowerment and

create new skills and jobs for the youth, by strengthening technical and vocational education and training. Opportunities also exist to support the development of nutrient-enriched crops such as maize, cassava and sweet potato.

Further development of up-to-date, reliable, and comprehensive food and nutrition security information will remain key to: understand the situation in different livelihood zones at sub-national level; inform context-specific strategies to strengthen community-level resilience in the southern provinces most affected by climate change; and achieve durable results in food and nutrition security. Finally, there is a need to continue to address the critical issue of nutrition governance and to support the inclusion and implementation of nutrition actions at the local level.

¹ 38% early childbearing by age 18; 10% female secondary education enrolment (GNR 2019).
² COVID-19 impact reports: Socio economic impact analysis in Angola UNDP May 2020.