



COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

ETHIOPIA

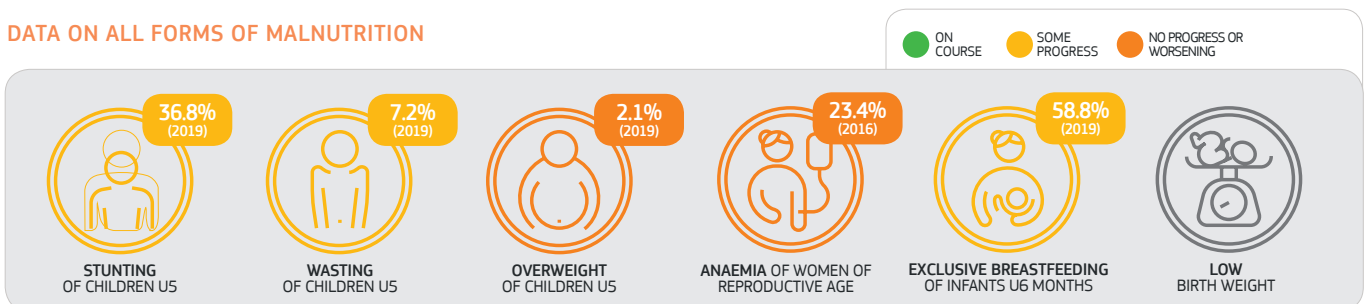
Nutrition situation in Ethiopia

AT A GLANCE

The population of Ethiopia – 115 million¹– is the second highest in Africa, and its urban population has doubled to nearly 20 million in the last 20 years. The country has set ambitious policy targets to reduce its historically high levels of undernutrition and is achieving significant progress. Nevertheless, more than 6 million children under five are stunted and one in 14 suffer from wasting. The prevalence of overweight and obesity amongst children and adults continues to rise. Micronutrient deficiencies in iodine, iron, vitamin A and zinc are public health problems. Despite substantial growth in agricultural production since 2000², poor

quality of diet, especially among young children³ and women, is a key factor driving malnutrition alongside inadequate hygiene and sanitation and limited access to essential health services. Malnutrition comes with a high social and economic cost, increasingly affecting poor households in both rural and urban communities, and estimated to represent 16.5% of annual GDP in Ethiopia⁴. The situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst locust invasion for 25 years⁵. Ethiopia has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.517 and is ranked at 125 of 162 countries in the 2019 index.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

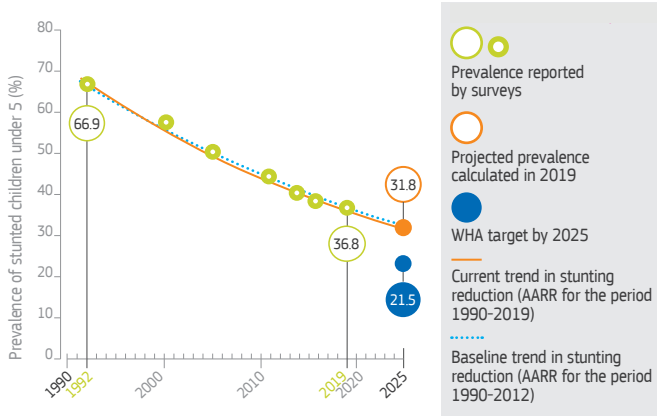
- Ethiopia committed to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in September 2012.
- Ethiopia launched its national nutrition strategy in 2008. This led to the National Nutrition Programme (NNP) 2013-2015, combining both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in support of achieving common strategic objectives under one framework.
- The NNP has been extended for a second phase (2016-2020) that defines the roles and responsibilities of each sector with an accountability matrix and costing for the nutrition-specific activities.
- A food and nutrition strategy is being drafted to replace the NNP from 2021.
- Policies introduced to promote good nutritional practices include micronutrient supplementation; nutrition support for people living with HIV/AIDS; and treatment of acute malnutrition.
- A national nutrition-sensitive agriculture strategy was developed in 2016 and is being implemented by the Agricultural Growth Programme in Ethiopia.
- In 2017, the National Food Fortification Steering Committee developed a five-year action plan on Food Fortification.
- The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative was established in Ethiopia in 2018, and its analysis is now contributing to policy seminars and debate.

Example of EU support

Quality Diets for Better Health is a food fortification project to promote the orange-fleshed sweet potato in a southern region of Ethiopia. The 4.5-year project began in 2017 and is implemented by the International Potato Center, co-funded by the EU (EUR 4 million). It targets 15 000 rural households directly and 120 000 rural and urban households indirectly. The project strives to improve diet quality and food security by introducing orange-fleshed sweet potato as a sustainable, natural source of vitamin A, phosphorous and potassium. It also strengthens nutrition education to families with pregnant women and children under 2. A study of 605 households has shown that the production of orange-fleshed sweet potato combined with nutrition education has led to significant improvements on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale and the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women. Furthermore, the project has been associated with improvements in achieving the Minimum Dietary Diversity and the Minimum Acceptable Diet in children aged 6-23 months. Vitamin A consumption of urban consumers is addressed through a value-chain approach using orange-fleshed sweet potato in products like bread and injera (a sour-fermented flatbread).

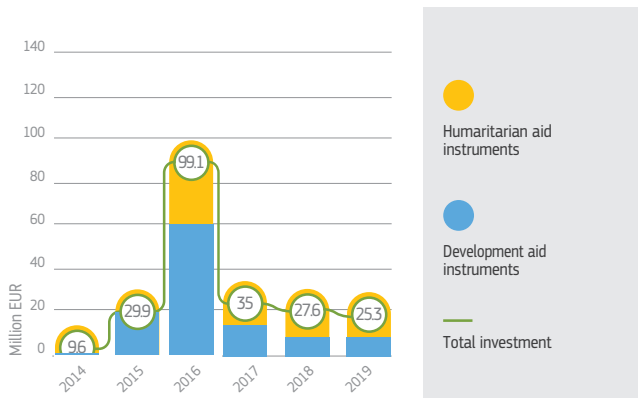
Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

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



In its second National Nutrition Programme, Ethiopia set an ambitious target to reduce the prevalence of stunting of children under five to 26% by 2020. Although it has succeeded in strongly reducing stunting prevalence since 1990, the number of children stunted has only nominally declined, due to population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has marginally accelerated from 2.16% in 2012 to 2.28% in 2019; if this is maintained, then nearly 5.7 million children can be expected to be stunted in 2025.

EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019 – A TOTAL OF EUR 226.5 MILLION



Ethiopia received the largest share of the European Development Fund portfolio in Africa between 2014 and 2020, thanks to its strategic engagement with the EU. This comprises up to EUR 50 million (including EUR 12.5 million for nutrition) for the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), a national initiative to enhance resilience capacity and livelihoods of vulnerable rural households to shocks and improve their food and nutrition security. The EU also contributes EUR 45 million (of which 25% for nutrition) to Ethiopia's 'flagship' Second Agricultural Growth Programme (AGPII). Under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, EUR 35 million was committed to nutrition out of EUR 139 million to improve and build resilience in Ethiopia. The EU has also committed EUR 4 million to improve the health and micronutrient status of vulnerable women and children by nutrient-enriched food.

¹ UNDESA World Population Prospects 2019 population estimate 2020.

² Ethiopia's Agri-food System, IFPRI, September 2020.

³ Only 7% of Ethiopian children aged 6-23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet (EDHS 2016).

⁴ The Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition in Ethiopia; UNECA/WFP 2013.

⁵ Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Ethiopia, UNCT Ethiopia, June 2020 and IPC Bulletin, September 2020.