



COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

NIGERIA

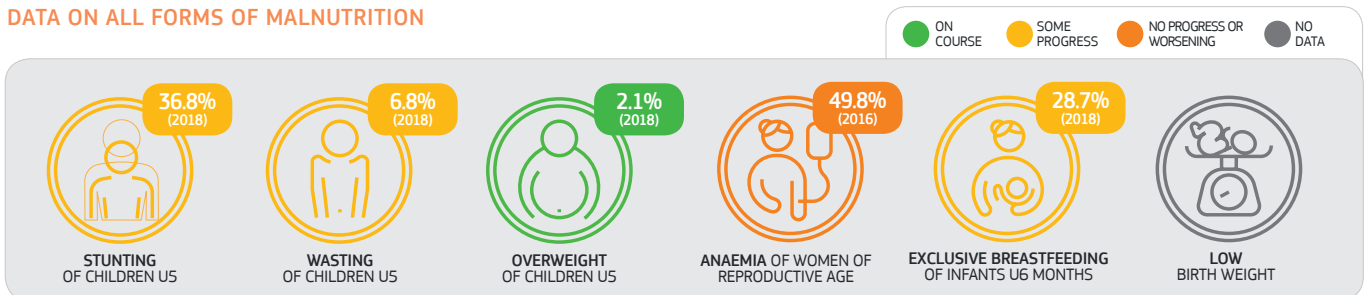
Nutrition situation in Nigeria

AT A GLANCE

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country (206 million¹) and its largest economy. Nevertheless, it has the highest burden of malnutrition with over 12 million stunted children (second highest globally after India). Malnutrition is directly associated with wealth inequalities. Children from the poorest quintile are four times more likely to suffer undernutrition, characterised by stunting, wasting and anaemia (68% of children under five²). A child in northern Nigeria (where stunting rates can exceed 60%³) is four times more likely to experience malnutrition than a child in the south. The situation is exacerbated, especially in the north-east,

by the Boko Haram insurgency, which has caused violent conflict, displacement and undermined already-fragile livelihoods affected by climate change and without access to enough food, water and health services. In contrast, obesity and overweight among women is increasing (especially in the bigger cities), and is five times higher among women from the wealthiest quintile⁴. The precarious state of malnutrition in Nigeria reflects the failure of food systems and basic services to deliver, a situation exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- Nigeria has been a member of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement since November 2011.
- Nigeria's national plan of action for nutrition 2014-2019 aims at reducing stunting, principally through costed nutrition-specific interventions in the health sector.
- The 2001 multi-sectoral national policy on food and nutrition was revised and relaunched in September 2016. A national plan of action on food and nutrition has been adopted and is currently being updated.
- A multi-sectoral national committee on food and nutrition is chaired/facilitated by the Ministry of Finance, Budget & National Planning. The national committee is replicated at state level, but many remain non-operational.
- A nutrition partners forum brings together government ministries and development partners principally to share information on situation analyses, programme planning and coordination.
- In 1993, Nigeria established mandatory fortification of salt with iodine and in 2005 it was the first African country to achieve Universal Salt Iodisation certification.
- Since 2002, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control has guided mandatory fortification for selected food staples. It is supported by a National Fortification Alliance, established in 2007.

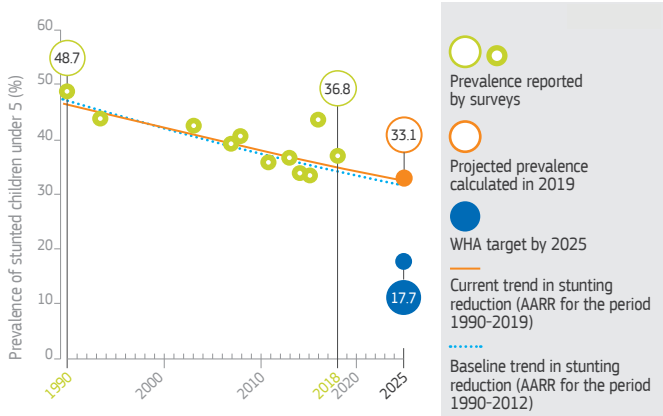
Example of EU support

Since May 2013, the EU has supported (EUR 70 million) a UNICEF-managed project to improve maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition outcomes in northern Nigeria, where morbidity and mortality among women and children is very high and persistent. The intervention began in Adamawa and Kebbi States and in 2017 was extended to Bauchi State. The project builds the capacity of government to coordinate, manage and deliver improved and integrated primary health care services and provides cash transfers to enable women and children to access vital services. The project has achieved significant results in improving community management to control acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding and micronutrient deficiency. Since it began, over 114 500 children with severe acute malnutrition have been treated. Whilst levels of stunting have only marginally improved, wasting of children under five has dropped significantly since 2013 in all three northern states (far exceeding the drop in the national average). Furthermore, the minimum acceptable diet of children aged 6-23 months improved by 35% in Adamawa and Kebbi from 2014 to 2016 and home fortification with micronutrient powder reached 52% of children by 2019.

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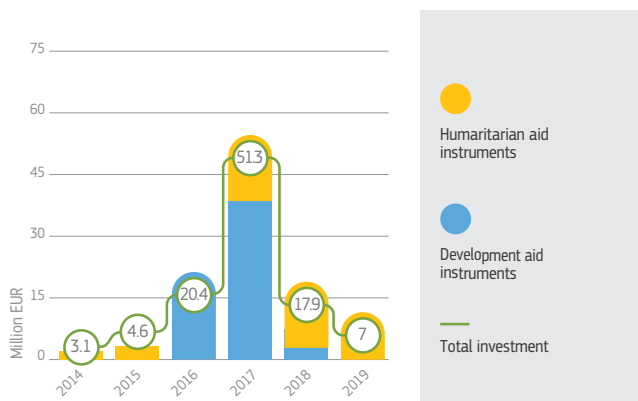
Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

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



Nigeria has committed to reduce stunting by 20% in its national plan of action for nutrition 2014-2019 but has fallen well short of this target. Nigeria has experienced a decline, albeit inconsistent, in the prevalence of stunting since 1990, but at the same time has seen a large increase in the number of children stunted, due to population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has decelerated slightly from 1.11% in 2012 to 0.99% in 2019; if this is maintained, then over 12 million children are still expected to be stunted in 2025.

EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019 – A TOTAL OF EUR 104.3 MILLION



The most significant nutrition investment by the EU has been through its support to maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition outcomes in northern Nigeria since 2013 (described above) amounting to EUR 70 million for the first phase (2013-2017).

However, Nigeria was one of the first countries to adopt the humanitarian-development nexus approach, to tackle the food and nutrition crisis in its north-east, and this culminated in the EU's support to 'Response, Recovery and Resilience' in Borno, and later, Yobe States, amounting to EUR 171 million, of which 25% is allocated to nutrition.

Through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, EUR 7 million was committed to nutrition out of a total of EUR 30 million to improve and build resilience in the country.

¹ UNDESA World Population Prospects 2019 population estimate 2020.
² Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018.

³ Stunting prevalence in Jigawa, 64%, and Kebbi, 66% (NDHS 2018).
⁴ Nigeria Demographic & Health Survey 2018.