

## COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

# TANZANIA



### Nutrition situation in Tanzania

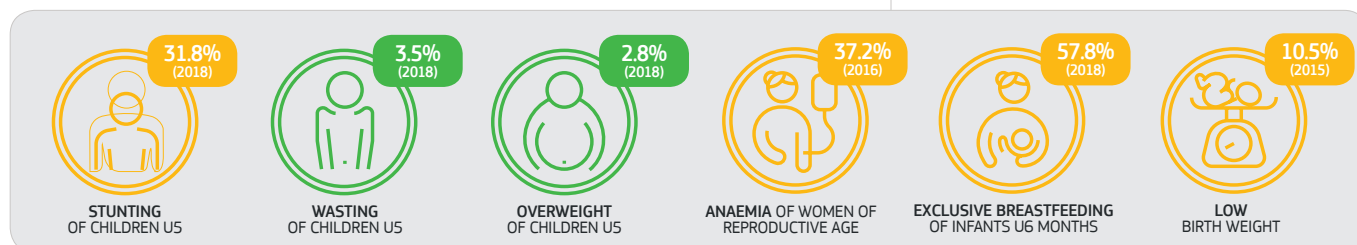
#### AT A GLANCE

The United Republic of Tanzania has a population of 60 million<sup>1</sup> with an urban population growth rate of 5.2% per year, one of the highest in the world. Agriculture accounts for over 30% of GDP and 75% of the labour force. Over the past 15 years, Tanzania has sustained relatively high economic growth and a reduction in poverty. During this period, it has made considerable progress in the fight against child malnutrition with a steady reduction in the prevalence of stunting, wasting and overweight. However, these improvements, often derived from better access to health and education services, principally benefit the wealthier population. More than 3

million children under five remain stunted, principally in poorer households, attributable to maternal malnutrition, inadequate infant feeding practices, low quality of health care and poor hygiene. The level of gender inequality is also a concern and has negative implications for nutrition. Furthermore, the prevalence of overweight is a growing problem especially among women – the highest level of obesity in women is in Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam, Stone Town and Unguja South<sup>2</sup>. Tanzania has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.556 and is ranked at 140 of 162 countries in the 2019 index.

#### DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION

ON COURSE SOME PROGRESS NO PROGRESS OR WORSENING



#### NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

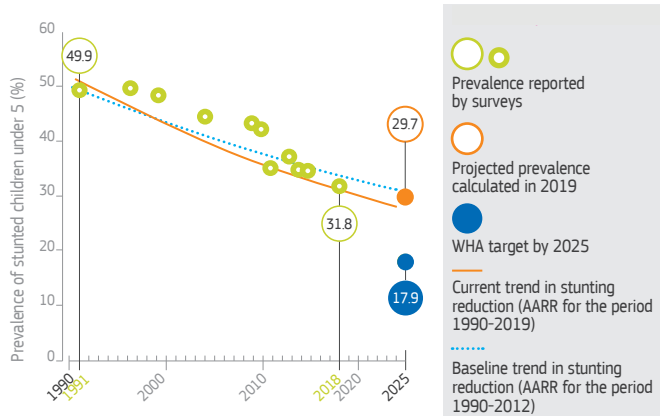
- Tanzania joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in June 2011.
- Tanzania has a National Food & Nutrition Policy 2016, a National Nutrition Strategy 2011-2016 and a National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2016-2021 which has a common results, resources and accountability framework.
- A high-level steering committee for nutrition was created in July 2012 under the Prime Minister's Office. A multi-sectoral nutrition technical working group supports the functioning of the committee, chaired by the Director of the Tanzania Food & Nutrition Centre within the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare.
- Nutrition issues have been incorporated into the Agriculture Sector Development Programme and the Productive Social Safety Net to promote nutrition-sensitive actions.
- Tanzania has also established a parliamentary group on nutrition which has an action plan for advocating for nutrition through parliamentary activities.
- Fortification of maize flour, salt, and wheat flour and oil have been mandated since 1975, 1993 and 2011, respectively. Compliance has been very poor because most of these foods, except wheat flour, are processed in non-registered small enterprises. It is illegal for unregistered businesses to fortify their products.

#### Example of EU support

'Agriconnect: Supporting value chains for shared prosperity' represents a key EU investment (EUR 100 million over five years) in 2018 to improve livelihoods and agriculture value chains by promoting job creation, income generation and improved nutrition through an effective public-private partnership. The action recognises that the rural population has gained little from the recent economic growth in Tanzania, and yet the agriculture sector still offers significant potential for the expansion of sustainable, climate-smart farming. From the design and formulation stage, the intent was making Agriconnect gender and nutrition-sensitive. Horticulture was thus identified as one of the value chains to support since it had the potential to attract a large number of women and youth, to generate economic growth and to increase demand for a diverse range of nutritious foods across the population. Nutrition has been mainstreamed through Agriconnect by placing an emphasis on expanding the availability, accessibility and consumption of nutritious foods, particularly for women and children. This will be supported through awareness-raising campaigns that foster behavioural change, especially in areas where there is high prevalence of child and maternal malnutrition and poor dietary diversity.

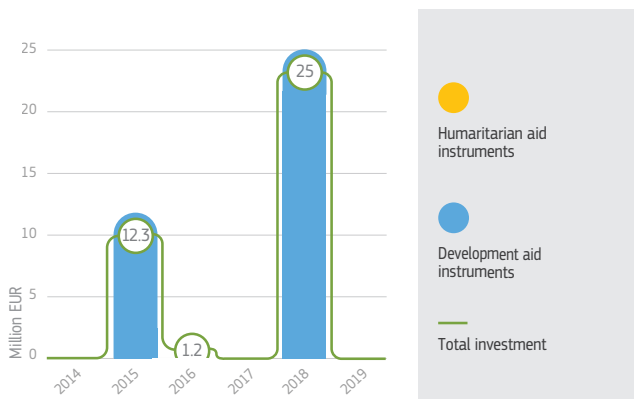
## Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

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



Through the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2016-2021, Tanzania has made a national commitment to reduce stunting from 34% to 28%. The country had made good progress in reducing stunting prevalence since the 1990s, but the number of children stunted has increased due to high population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has accelerated slightly from 1.37% in 2012 to 1.74% in 2019. However, even if this is maintained, it is likely that Tanzania will not meet its national stunting reduction target. Over 3.2 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025, higher than it has been recently, despite the decrease in prevalence of stunting.

### EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019 – A TOTAL OF EUR 38.5 MILLION



The two principal EU commitments to nutrition during this period were the Support to Food Security and Nutrition in Tanzania being implemented by the World Food Programme and Save the Children in Dodoma and Singida regions (EUR 10 million), categorised as nutrition-sensitive and the other as nutrition-specific (EUR 25 million of the total amount is allocated to nutrition).

<sup>1</sup> UNDESA World Population Prospects 2019 population estimate 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Tanzania National Nutrition Survey 2018.