



COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

YEMEN

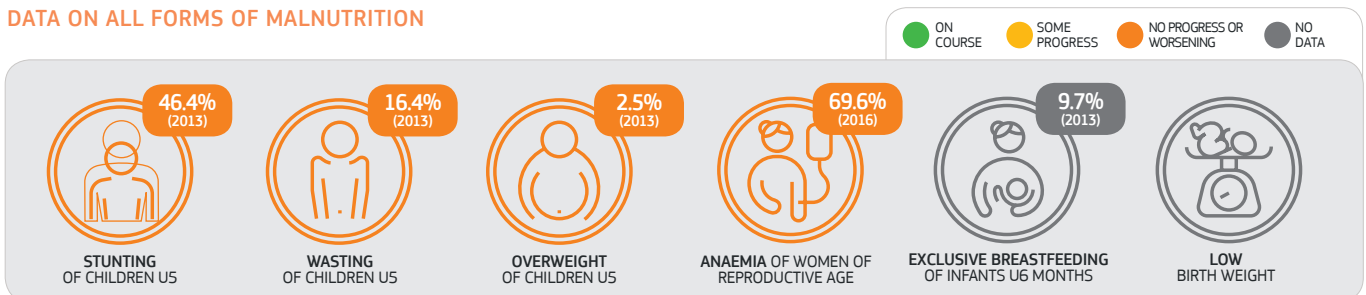
Nutrition situation in Yemen

AT A GLANCE

The population of Yemen currently stands at 29.8 million¹. The conflict-torn country continues to endure a severe humanitarian crisis causing internal displacement of the population. More than two-thirds of the population require humanitarian assistance, and an estimated 7.4 million people require services to treat or prevent malnutrition. Gender inequality is deep-rooted and worsening. Yemen is off course to meet the global nutrition targets for all indicators for which adequate data is available. With almost half of all children under five stunted, the country has one of the highest stunting rates in the world. The prevalence of child wasting is also alarmingly high, with 2 million children affected, of which 360 000 suffer from severe

acute malnutrition. Only one in 10 infants is exclusively breastfed and only 15% of those aged 6-23 months are fed a minimum adequate diet. The adult population also faces malnutrition: almost three-quarters of women of reproductive age have anaemia, while 53.3% of women are overweight, of whom 22% are obese, highlighting a significant double burden of malnutrition. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly exacerbated the situation. Malnourished mothers and their children, with already weakened immune systems, are particularly at risk from health shocks. Yemen has a Gender Inequality Index of 0.795, ranking it last of 162 countries in the 2019 index.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- Yemen joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2012.
- The ongoing conflict continues to hinder efforts to improve nutrition governance, particularly at sub-national levels.
- The Minister of Planning is the Government's focal point for nutrition. Nutrition focal points have been established in key ministries (health, agriculture, fisheries, water/environment and education) and nutrition budget lines have been established for each sector.
- At a national level there has been an emphasis on fostering the humanitarian-development nexus to link nutrition-specific emergency actions with programmes to build nutrition resilience and promote government oversight.
- A costed Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (including a common results framework) and an advocacy strategy and action plan aim to scale up nutrition financial commitments and to strengthen donors' alignment with the national budget. Donor coordination efforts include mapping of nutrition stakeholders and interventions.

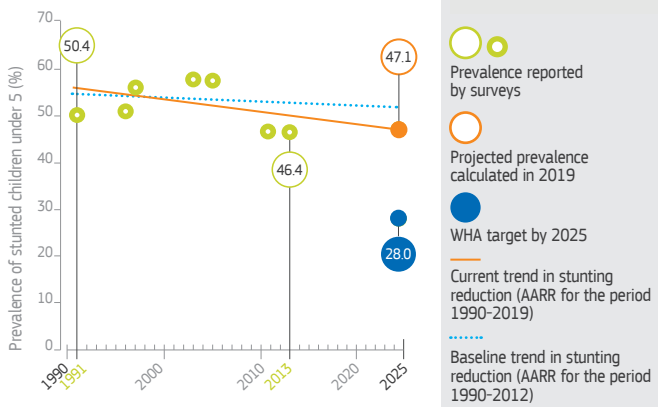
Example of EU support

The Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food and Nutrition Security in Yemen Joint Programme (ERRY II: 2019-2021) is co-financed by the EU (EUR 34.2 million) and SIDA (EUR 9 million) and implemented by FAO, International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme and WFP in six governorates: Hajjah, Hodeidah, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz and Sana'a. The objective is 'to contribute to reduced vulnerability and strengthened resilience of crisis-affected communities in Yemen through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and improving access to basic services'. Interventions to support crisis-affected communities to better manage local risks and shocks for increased resilience and self-reliance target the most vulnerable community groups, including women, the unemployed, youth, the Muhamasheen (a marginalised ethnic group), internally displaced persons and stressed host communities. A key focus of the programme is on ensuring active partnerships between local authorities, the private sector, communities, the Social Fund for Development and local and international NGOs. Target groups are selected and their effective participation facilitated on the basis of inclusive, participatory and conflict-sensitive tools.

YEMEN

Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

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



Yemen has experienced a slight decline in the prevalence of stunting since 1990, but due to population growth the number of children stunted has increased. Recent projections anticipate that Yemen will neither meet the government's own target of 23.3% by end 2020, nor the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted had marginally accelerated from 0.10% in 2012 to 0.41% in 2019: if this were to be maintained then nearly 2 million children would 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 – TOTAL OF EUR 135 MILLION



The majority of EU commitments to nutrition correspond to humanitarian assistance (EUR 117.4 million), including life-saving treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition. At the same time, nutrition commitments through development interventions amounting to EUR 18 million have focused on enhancing resilience for the population of Yemen, even as conflict has continued. The programmes 'Enhancing rural resilience through the creation of a Community Health Workers Network' (nutrition investment: EUR 4 million) and 'Enhancing Rural Resilience in Yemen' (nutrition investment: EUR 8.7 million) were financed in 2014. Resilience financing (PROACT) was also committed in 2016 and 2017. Most recently in 2018 is a nutrition investment of EUR 1.5 million for 'Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food and Nutrition Security in Yemen' (as described above). More than 854 000 women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under five were reached by EU-supported nutrition-related interventions from 2014-2018.

¹ World Population Prospects <https://population.un.org/wpp/>