

COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

MOZAMBIQUE



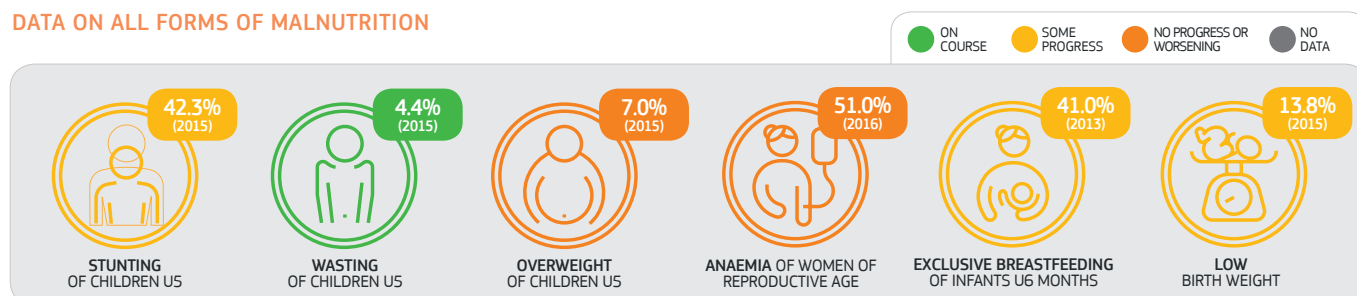
Nutrition situation in Mozambique

AT A GLANCE

Mozambique has a population of 30.3 million people, which is projected to grow to 41.2 million by 2030. Despite progress on economic growth, critical levels of stunting continue to persist, affecting almost half of children under five years of age, with numbers rising due to population growth. Anaemia in women and children is widespread, while overweight and obesity are increasing across all groups¹. Socio-economic disparities are large, disproportionately affecting the northern provinces. Although these areas have high agricultural potential and are considered 'food secure', they repeatedly face environmental shocks² and dietary diversity is among the lowest in the region. Key drivers of poor nutrition include early childbearing in

adolescent girls (along with other persisting gender inequalities³) and poor access to health, safe water and sanitation. With the COVID-19 pandemic, there is real concern that reduced incomes combined with limited access to basic services and gender inequalities will worsen the country's already critical nutrition situation, particularly among the poor and vulnerable groups. The human, social and economic costs of malnutrition in Mozambique are unacceptably high, yet preventable. The country loses over 10.9% of GDP each year to child stunting alone³. Mozambique has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.523 and is ranked at 127 of 162 countries in the 2019 index.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- In August 2011, Mozambique was one of the earliest countries to commit to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement.
- In the last decade, the country has increasingly prioritised food and nutrition security in its policy frameworks including the multi-sector action plan for the reduction of chronic undernutrition (2011-2020) and the second national strategy for food security and nutrition (ESAN II 2008-2015). A new strategy (ESAN III) has been drafted but is yet to be approved. The Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) is responsible for coordinating the implementation of FNS activities under these strategies⁴. Food and nutrition security is also included in most relevant policies e.g. agriculture, health, environment, social protection. However, convergence among these policies and their links with ESAN III is limited.
- The last national nutrition survey dates back to 2013. The lack of adequate monitoring and information systems remains a key challenge.
- Mandatory food fortification is coordinated by the National Committee for Food Fortification in Mozambique.

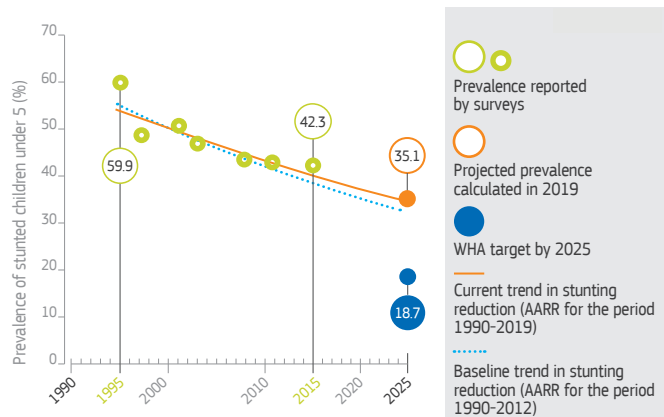
Example of EU support

The nutrition support programme 'PROMOVE-Nutrição' (2017-2021) is implemented by UNICEF and targets provinces with high stunting prevalence – Nampula and Zambezia. It aims to scale up nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene services and behaviour change efforts with a focus on a child's first 1 000 days. A technical support component strengthens the provincial and district level capacities in decentralised planning and monitoring and implementing national nutrition strategies. Improving the governance of multisectoral action in nutrition is fundamental for the sustainability of similar interventions. Within a multisectoral approach to programming, an attempt was made to build synergies with the other rural competitiveness programme (PROMOVE-Agribiz) funded by the EU and aimed at enhancing small producers' productivity and improving their resilience and FNS. Both PROMOVE programmes converge geographically on one district in Zambezia. The upcoming midterm review of PROMOVE-Nutrição will establish insights into the most promising initiatives including converging interventions to address the multiple drivers of malnutrition.

MOZAMBIQUE

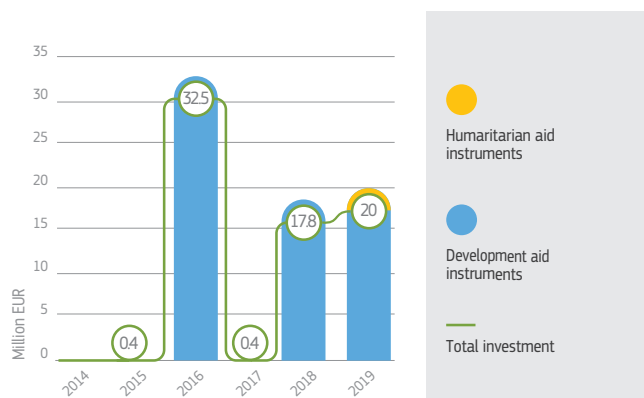
Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

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



Although Mozambique has experienced a marked decline in the prevalence of stunting since 1990, the number of stunted children has increased due to population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has decelerated; from 1.72% in 2012 to 1.46%. If this rate of decline is maintained, then nearly 2 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025.

EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019 – TOTAL OF EUR 71 MILLION



A comprehensive package of EU food and nutrition security investments targets Mozambique's two most populous provinces, Zambezia and Nampula, which have some of the worst levels of malnutrition. This offers a real opportunity to improve nutrition across key complementary sectors.

The EU contributes up to EUR 68 million (including EUR 17 million for nutrition) to a rural competitiveness programme (PROMOVE-Agribiz) jointly implemented by the FAO, the German Development Agency GIZ, World Bank and Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento Sustentável. Its double objective is to support smallholders' productivity and market integration while at the same time improving their food and nutrition status. In addition, the EU allocated EUR 30 million for the nutrition support programme (described above) and approximately EUR 18 million for recovery and resilience interventions in response to emergencies due to natural disasters and climate change.

¹ Especially in women, with highest prevalence in the Southern provinces and in urban areas, affecting over a third of women (Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 2013).

² Fill the Nutrient Gap (WFP, 2018). Two major cyclones in 2019 and floods in early 2020, combined with a significantly below average harvest in 2019.

³ The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA), Mozambique study, 2017.

⁴ It remains to be seen whether the PAMRDC will continue or be incorporated in ESAN III.