

## COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

# SOMALIA



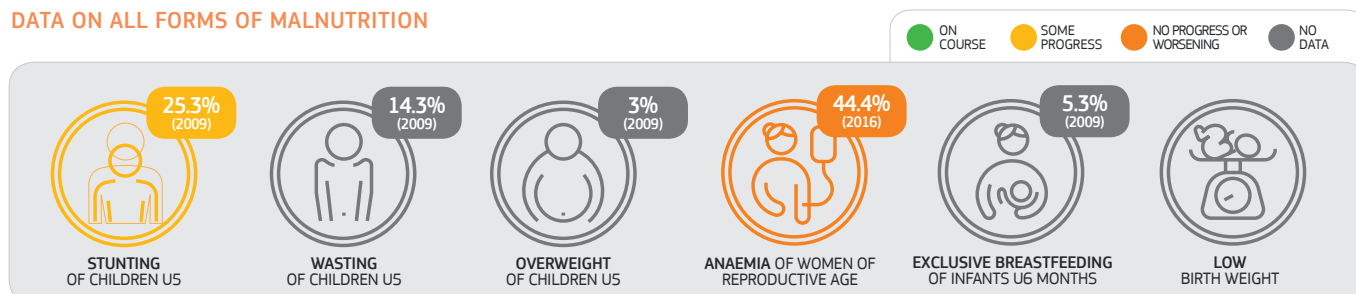
### Nutrition situation in Somalia

#### AT A GLANCE

For the past three decades, Somalia (estimated population nearly 16 million<sup>1</sup>) has suffered from multiple natural and manmade emergencies, including political instability, terrorist attacks, drought, famine and floods. These events have led to internal displacement and the external migration of hundreds of thousands of Somalis. There are significant regional variations in child undernutrition. The south-west has the highest food insecurity and consequently the highest prevalence of wasting, anaemia, and iron and vitamin A

deficiencies<sup>2</sup>. Inappropriate feeding practices of infants and young children, especially low levels of exclusive breastfeeding, as well as poor hygiene and sanitation, contribute to undernutrition. The provision of basic services is highly dependent on the international community, in collaboration with local communities. Currently, the country is facing the triple threat of flooding, desert locust infestations and the COVID-19 pandemic, with southern areas of the country worst affected.

#### DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



#### NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- Somalia has been a member of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement since 2014; the EU was appointed SUN donor convenor in September 2020 as the mandate of the SUN donor network is being defined.
- The national development plan for Somalia 2020-2024 includes a section on nutrition in the pillar on social and human development. Nutrition is also mainstreamed in sections on economic development and resilience.
- The health sector has established a health sector strategic plan, a costed nutrition plan of action, and strategies on micronutrients, infant and young child feeding and nutrition.
- The SUN business network spearheaded efforts in food fortification which resulted in a national food fortification strategic plan (2019-2023).
- There is a multi-sectoral platform on nutrition comprising eight ministries, including the Prime Minister's Office, which hosts the SUN focal point and the secretariat.
- A nutrition donors' cluster (focuses specifically on the humanitarian response) also meets on a quarterly basis to coordinate nutrition interventions.

#### Example of EU support

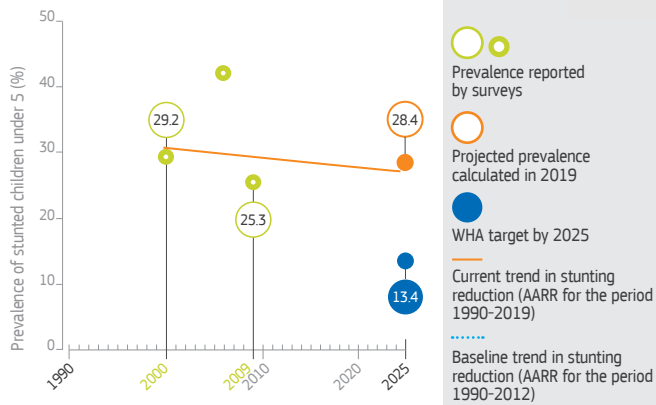
The EU has been supporting the Somali Resilience Programme (SomRep), a multi-donor seven-year initiative to boost the capacity of Somali communities, since the famine of 2011. Managed by a consortium of seven NGOs, it addresses humanitarian and development needs to build the resilience of chronically vulnerable Somali communities. Through the South West State Drought Recovery Programme, SomRep integrated nutrition interventions into resilience building programming through two main approaches: (i) nutrition skills training in village savings and loan associations; and (ii) nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

The training draws on behaviours practised by the mothers or carers of well-nourished children from poor families to share positive practices to those with malnourished children. These include good nutrition practices, infant and young child feeding, early detection of cases of malnutrition, healthy diets and eating habits as well as adopting good hygiene.

The agriculture activities include kitchen gardening, improving yields of diverse crops, training in climate-smart agriculture and improving market access for both producers and consumers. As a consequence, the proportion of households experiencing positive food security outcomes has increased by 20% since 2017, household incomes have improved and the food consumption score of participating households has increased.

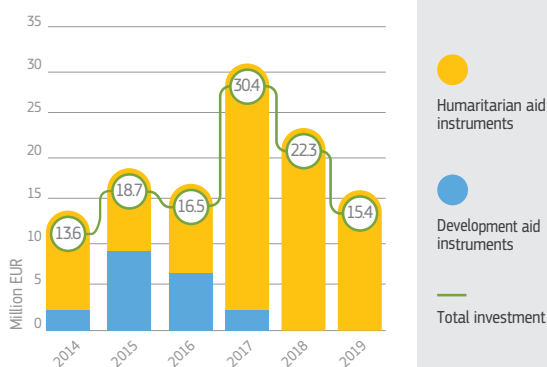
## Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

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



The available quantitative nutrition data in Somalia is extremely limited. Somalia has experienced a decline in the prevalence of stunting since 2005, but the number of children stunted remains notable due to population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted estimated in 2019 was 0.5%. If this is maintained, over half a million children are expected to be stunted in 2025, despite the decrease in the prevalence of stunting.

### EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019 – A TOTAL OF EUR 116.9 MILLION



The EU investments to Somalia focusing on nutrition have principally been through the Horn of Africa's humanitarian implementation plan to support food and cash assistance to populations that are most vulnerable to drought and the effects of climate change. Since 2014 the EU support has focused on building longer term resilience through crisis prevention and post-crisis response such as in the SomReP project. In 2017 the programme OUTREACH – 'Partnerships for Inclusive Economic Growth' was launched to build capacity for emerging public institutions in Somalia and support smallholders and private sector organisations to enhance rural services based on public-private collaboration. In 2018, these interventions were complemented with two major projects (RESTORE), which addressed underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition and aimed to restore livelihoods and the resilience of vulnerable households and communities in Somaliland and Puntland.

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

<sup>2</sup> Somalia Micronutrient Survey 2019.