

ETHIOPIA

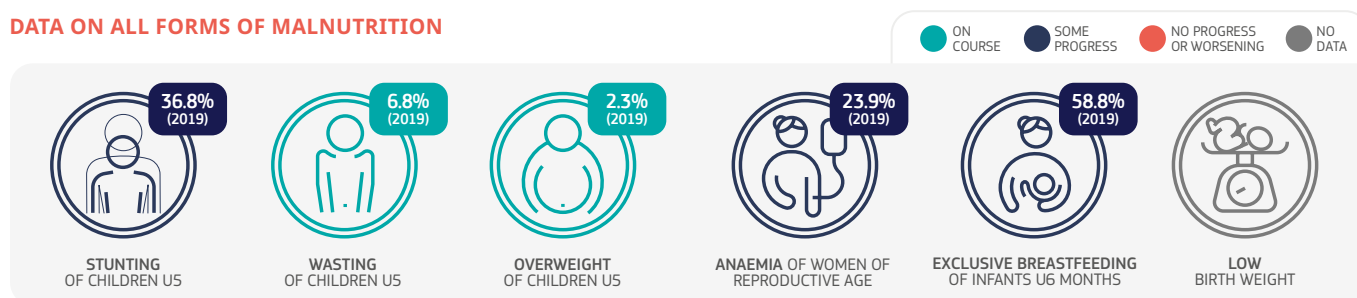
Nutrition situation in Ethiopia

AT A GLANCE

The population of Ethiopia – 126.5 million¹ – is the second highest in Africa, and its urban population has doubled to nearly 20 million in the last 20 years. In the past two years Ethiopia has experienced conflict in northern regions, insecurity causing displacement of many in Tigray and other regions, the COVID-19 pandemic, rising food prices, four consecutive seasons of drought in southern and eastern areas and flooding in lowlands, impacting considerably on food and nutrition security. An estimated 16.8 million people are in food crisis. Wide regional variations persist in malnutrition: prior to the recent crises, the proportion of stunted children under-five was highest in Tigray (48%), Afar (42%), and Amhara (42%), whereas

wasting was highest in Somali (21%), Afar (14%), and Gambela (13%)². Micronutrient deficiencies in iodine, iron, vitamin A and zinc are public health problems. Despite substantial growth in agricultural production since 2000³, limited diversity of diet, especially among young children⁴ and women, is a key factor driving malnutrition alongside inadequate hygiene and sanitation and limited access to essential health services. Malnutrition is estimated to cost 16.5% of annual GDP⁵ and 83.9% of Ethiopians could not afford a healthy diet in 2021⁶. Ethiopia has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.494 and is ranked 125 of 166 countries in 2022.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



The data reported in the 2023 EU Nutrition Country Profiles is drawn from the UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates and the Global Nutrition Report (GNR).

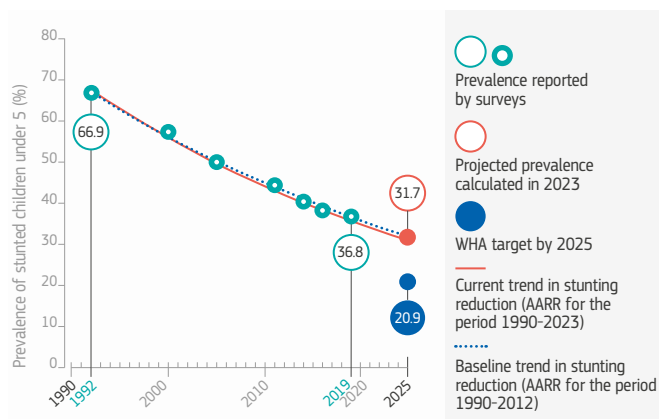
NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- Ethiopia joined the Scaling Up Nutrition movement in September 2012.
- Ethiopia launched its national nutrition strategy in 2008 which led to two National Nutrition Programmes (NNP) 2013-2015 and 2016-2020, combining both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in support of achieving common strategic objectives under one framework.
- The Seqota declaration (2015) and its implementation plan emphasises the government commitment to end child undernutrition by 2030, as a foundation for economic development.
- A National Food and Nutrition Policy (2018) and the National Food and Nutrition Strategy (2021-2031) have replaced the NNP from 2021 with a more systemic approach to nutrition.
- Since the UN Food Systems Summit (2021) Ethiopia is engaged in the sustainable food systems transformation, with a national agenda and roadmap.
- A national nutrition-sensitive agriculture strategy was developed in 2016 and is being implemented by the Agricultural Growth Programme in Ethiopia.
- In 2017, the National Food Fortification Steering Committee developed a five-year Action Plan on Food Fortification.
- The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative was established in Ethiopia in 2018.

Example of EU support

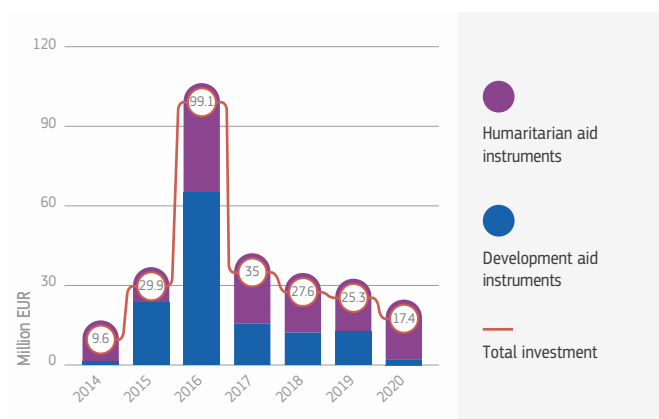
The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN Ethiopia) <https://www.nipn.eph.gov.et> was launched in 2018 with the EU as lead donor. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) has led its operationalisation through 4.5 years, with technical assistance from IFPRI. NIPN has substantially contributed to strengthening evidence-based nutrition governance in Ethiopia through an innovative approach based on multisector data collection and analysis, multi-stakeholder coordination and integration mechanisms. NIPN is fully embedded into the governance structure of the National Food and Nutrition Strategy (2021-2031) through the multi-sector Monitoring, Evaluation, Research Steering Committee chaired by EPHI and contributes to its implementation and monitoring. One of the core functions of NIPN is to provide evidence-based responses to policy questions and inform policymakers through the high-level NIPN Advisory Committee. Since August 2022, NIPN has entered a new phase (NIPN 2.0) designed to focus on a number of priorities such as consolidating ownership, institutionalisation and sustainability, enhancing policy-making, increasing focus on advocacy, learning and dissemination, fostering linkages with academia and other platforms, expanding activities at sub-national level, and fostering accountability for investments and nutrition policy responses.

Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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

The Government of Ethiopia's ten-year National Development Plan 2021-2030 commits to a reduction of under-five stunting from 37% to 13% by 2030. Although it has succeeded in strongly reducing stunting prevalence since 1990, the number of children stunted has only nominally declined, due to population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has marginally accelerated from 2.17% in 2012 to 2.27% in 2022. If this is maintained, then nearly 6.03 million children can be expected to be stunted in 2025.



EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – A TOTAL OF EUR 244 MILLION

Ethiopia received the largest share of the European Development Fund portfolio in Africa between 2014 and 2020. This comprised up to EUR 72.5 million (including EUR 12.5 million for nutrition) for the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP4). The EU also contributed EUR 45 million (of which 25% for nutrition) to Ethiopia's 'flagship' Second Agricultural Growth Programme (AGPII). Under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, EUR 35 million was committed to nutrition out of EUR 139 million to improve and build resilience in Ethiopia. The EU also committed EUR 9.5 million to improve the health and micronutrient status of vulnerable women and children through nutrient-enriched food, the production and dissemination of innovative food-rich solutions in collaboration with the private sector and to support the NIPN.

A further EUR 36.3 million was committed in 2021-2022 for humanitarian aid and EUR 75 million in 2022 through development aid instruments⁷.

Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

At the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit the Government of Ethiopia presented its [Vision 2030: Transforming Ethiopian Food Systems](#) which promotes food safety, nutrition and diets, improved livelihoods, land preservation and resilience to shocks and stress; and at the 2021 [Tokyo Nutrition For Growth \(N4G\) Summit](#), the Government showcased the Seqota Declaration and commitment to end child undernutrition by 2030.

Nutrition forms part of the 360-degree approach of the EU's Global Gateway. The EU has been a key facilitator in promoting the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN) in Ethiopia in collaboration with Member States, as well as supporting rural transformation, focusing on sustainable agriculture and food systems in conjunction with climate risk mitigation, food security and social protection. Gender and nutrition are important cross-cutting themes of this approach. These priorities are reflected in the EUR 640 million commitment for food security, social protection and social sectors between 2021 and 2023 and in the 2024-2027 Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) allocation of over EUR 350 million for the first two priority areas, Green Deal and Human Development. Due to the war in Tigray, the MIP was suspended until 2024. However, EU cooperation with Ethiopia was maintained under the Individual Measures modality.

The Action Document under the Individual Measures for food crisis response and social protection in rural areas of Ethiopia aims to address bottlenecks preventing adequate nutritious food production for vulnerable and conflict-affected populations and to enhance resilience through social protection services for the poorest and most vulnerable. Particular attention is given to enhance nutrition solutions for the diets of rural households through nutrient-enriched food crops. Nutrition is also being mainstreamed into upcoming food security projects, such as the FARM project with AFD, to which the EU contributes EUR 14 million and climate-resilient irrigation under the PACT project with IFAD. Strengthening NIPN 2.0 is key to better understand the nutrition situation in different livelihood zones of the country to inform policy and strategies at both federal and regional levels.

Another Action Document under the Individual Measures for Agricultural Recovery and improved domestic food production and food security in Ethiopia, aims to support agricultural recovery in regions hit by natural and man-made hazards-induced disasters (drought, conflict), and to contribute towards improving sustainable domestic food production and food security throughout Ethiopia. It builds on and extends the existing programmes with high food security impact for smallholder farmers and pastoralists with an emphasis on female-headed households. Given the multidimensional nature of the problem, it focuses on securing the continuity of food supply chains, notably highly nutritional commodities, and the transition to environmentally and socially sustainable food systems.

1 - UNDESA [World Population Prospects 2022](#), population estimate July 2023.

2 - Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) 2019

3 - Ethiopia's Agri-food System, IFPRI, September 2020.

4 - Only 11% of Ethiopian children aged 6-23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet (EDHS 2019).

5 - The Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition in Ethiopia; UNECA/WFP 2013.

6 - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/foodpricesfornutrition>

7 - Data in this section excludes some regional, global and policy/research/information commitments that could not be disaggregated by beneficiary country. Data for 2022 are preliminary. The European Commission applied the methodology of the SUN Donor Network for nutrition resource tracking 2014-2020, and from 2021 onwards the OECD DAC's nutrition policy marker.