

# HONDURAS

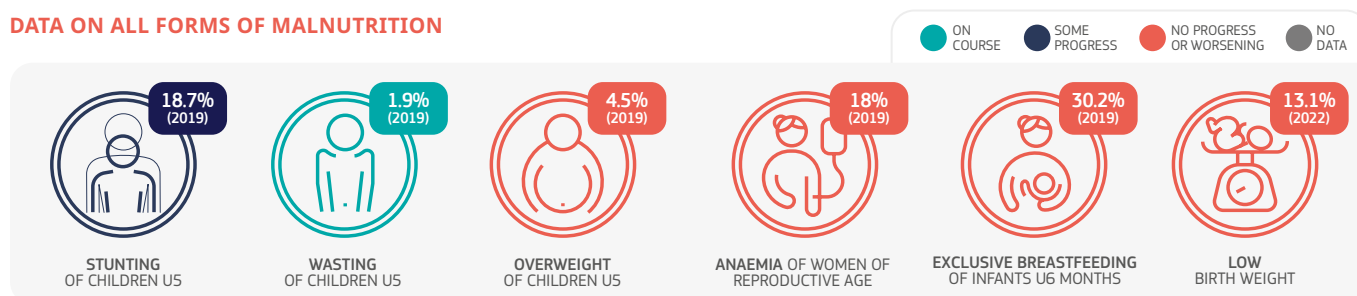
## Nutrition situation in Honduras

## AT A GLANCE

Honduras, with its population of 10.7 million people<sup>1</sup> (estimated to reach 11.6 million by 2030), has experienced a significant economical decline (-10.7%) in recent years<sup>2</sup>. Although some progress was made in reducing chronic undernutrition, one in every five children under five remain stunted, while overweight and obesity are rising rapidly in all age groups. Malnutrition is particularly linked to poverty in rural households with limited access to services (health, education, water and sanitation). Drivers include poor quality diets and early childbearing along with other gender inequalities<sup>3</sup>. Drought-prone regions in the south and west also face food security problems (stunting rates are double the national average in Intibucá and

Lempira). The severity of acute food insecurity has reached unprecedented levels in 2021 due to a combination of factors such as losses caused by category 4 hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020, which destroyed homes and livelihoods, as well as income losses due to mobility and transport restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The costs of malnutrition are high, yet preventable: Honduras loses over 11.4% of its GDP annually to child stunting (countries in the region lose up to 4.2% of GDP to the double burden of malnutrition<sup>4</sup>). Honduras has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.413 and is ranked at 102 of 166 countries (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

- Honduras joined the Scaling Up Nutrition movement in May 2019.
- Since 2011, the country has had a well-developed multisectoral policy and legal framework for food and nutrition security (SINASAN).
- The updated national food and nutritional security strategy and policy (PyENSAN) 2018-2030 provides a comprehensive national approach to reducing malnutrition. It is accompanied by action plans for both food security and nutrition (2019-2023) with goals and indicative budgets to inform sector planning. PyENSAN is coordinated by SINASAN's technical body (UTSAN). A nutrition partners' forum coordinates support to the Government.
- Food and nutrition security is included in most relevant policies e.g. health, environment and social protection. However, the lack of inter-sectoral coordination in the definition, implementation and budget allocation limits the development of those policies at municipal level and their links with PyENSAN.
- The Government under the Presidency of Xiomara Castro in January 2022 attached UTSAN under the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock.
- Due to the worsening of the food and nutritional security situation, a reorientation of the PYENSAN with a new policy approach base in food sovereignty is expected.
- EUROSAN DEL budget support is increasing the national transfers to municipalities improving the role of decentralised institutions.

### Example of EU support

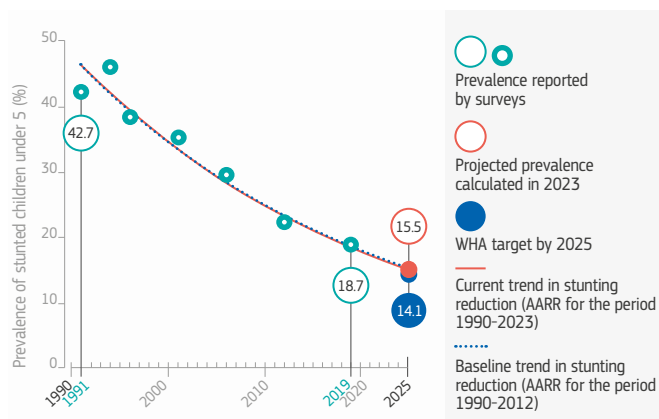
The EUROSAN Occidente programme (EUR 37.5 million, 2016-2021) targets municipalities in the Dry Corridor with the highest malnutrition and poverty rates. Implemented by FAO, it aims to improve the food security, nutrition and resilience of rural households by (i) building sustainable farming systems, (ii) supporting education and nutrition contributing to the community comprehensive care for children strategy (AIN-C) and (iii) strengthening national and local institutions' planning and monitoring capacities.

Through EUROSAN BUDGET (EUR 30 million budget support + 3.5 million for WFP resilience program) the GoH completed the ENDESA 2019 (National Survey of Demography and Health); 2 343 persons were trained in food security and nutrition principles; 286 municipalities participated in food security and nutrition regional roundtables; and more than 37 000 children under five received nutritional assistance.

Launched in 2019, EUROSAN DEL (EUR38 million) aims to improve health care and nutrition extension services at community level in municipalities in the Dry Corridor; strengthening local governments capacities in effective planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring, implementation and accountability of the Food and Nutrition Security policy; and improving evidence-based information management and knowledge.

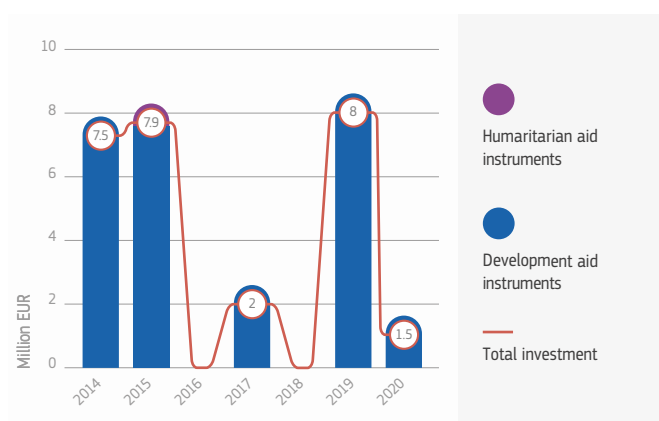


## Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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

Honduras has experienced a strong decline both in the prevalence of stunting and the number of children stunted since the mid-1990s. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted is 3.2%; if this is maintained, then nearly 166 000 children are expected to be stunted in 2025.



### EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – A TOTAL OF EUR 26.9 MILLION

EU food and nutrition security investments total EUR 106 million, of which EUR 26 million are specifically for nutrition. The EUROSAN Occidente project (see above) received up to EUR 37.5 million (EUR 8.5 million for nutrition) while a contract for sector reform (EUROSAN BUDGET), focusing on capacity building and governance for food security and nutrition policy at national and local levels, received up to EUR 33.5 million (EUR 8.5 million for nutrition). Funding was also provided for a demographic and health survey which includes indicators on nutrition and dietary diversity, and EUROSAN DEL budget support (EUR 38 million) to strengthen local government capacity in decentralised planning and delivery of food security and health/nutrition services for vulnerable populations in 39 municipalities (3 in the Dry Corridor area). At least EUR 9 million assigned to the performance indicators are health and nutrition oriented<sup>5</sup>.

## Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

Honduras presents high levels of food insecurity and vulnerability to climate change. During the N4G Summit in Tokyo (2021), the various nutrition-related sectors aligned their priorities to set national commitments for food systems and nutrition as presented in the Summit Compact Annex, while in preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit, GoH drafted a National Pathway “Transformation of the Food System in Honduras in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030” (version 11.09.2021).

Nutrition forms part of the 360-degree approach of the EU’s Global Gateway. The planned EU-funded interventions are reinforcing the EU profile in the country, emphasising the green values and interests in line with the EU ‘Green Deal’ priorities as well as with Honduras’s first priority area of sustainable management of natural resources and climate change.

This first priority area expands the food security approach from an agricultural sector production approach to a broader climate change adaptation strategy, including the forest and urban sectors.

The Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (VPA FLEGT) between the EU and the Honduras Government has been signed in 2021 and is reflected in the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027. The agreement will reinforce governance in the forest sector, promoting deforestation-free supply chains, and the implementation of climate-smart agriculture value chains to support Honduras in achieving its nationally determined contribution commitment to restore 1 million hectares of forest.

The Team Europe Initiative (TEI) with France, Germany and Spain, will focus on 2 of the 8 policy areas of the EU’s Green Deal, ensuring food security and nutrition for future generations, while allowing the restoration of degraded land, ecosystems and biodiversity. The TEI will support the husbandry, coffee, cacao, and other resilient agriculture value chains, in increasing the efficacy of their production, and reducing their dependence on land resources. At regional level, the TEI will be coordinated with Guatemala and Costa Rica to facilitate the exchange of good practices between countries.

1 - UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, *World Population Prospects 2022*, population estimate for January 2024.

2 - World Development Indicators - World Bank (2022.05.26)

3 - Less than half the children aged 6-23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet; 20% early childbearing by age 18 (rising to 1 in 3 among women with little or no education and in the poorest quintiles) (DHS 2011-12).

4 - ECLAC (2008) The cost of hunger: Social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Central America and the Dominican Republic. ECLAC and WFP (2017) “The double burden: The combined economic impact of undernutrition and obesity in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

5 - 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 the OECD DAC’s nutrition policy marker from 2021 onwards.