

Country Profile On Nutrition

07/2024

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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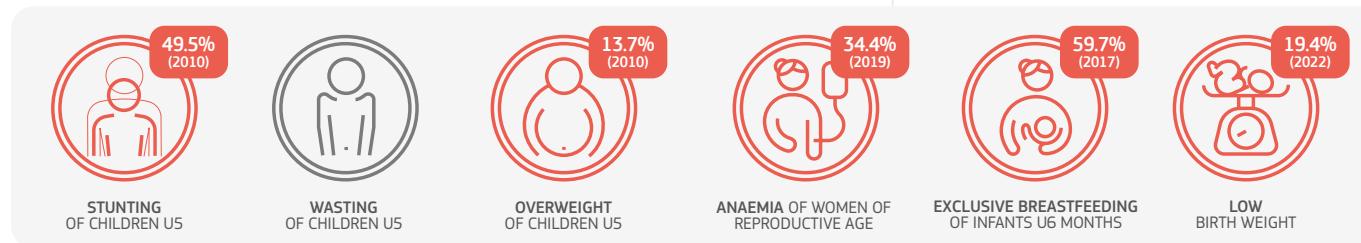
Nutrition situation in PAPUA NEW GUINEA

AT A GLANCE

The population of Papua New Guinea (PNG) is currently just over 10 million people¹. None of PNG's nutrition-related indicators are on track to meet WHA 2025 nutrition targets and no progress has been made towards the international stunting target for 2025. PNG has one of the world's highest stunting rates in children under five years of age, estimated at 49.5%. There is insufficient data available to track progress on wasting, although last available data suggests that prevalence is around 14% (GNR 2022). Despite insufficient data to track progress on exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months of age, the last available data shows

that almost 60% are exclusively breastfed. Only 18 % of children aged 6-23 months receive a minimally adequate diet and almost half of children under five years of age are anaemic. Over a third of women of reproductive age are anaemic and at the same time, 29% of adult women are living with obesity. Causes include poverty, natural and manmade emergencies, gender inequality, inadequate diets, poor infant and young child feeding practices, lack of safe water, hygiene and sanitation and limited access to basic health and nutrition services. PNG has a Gender Inequality Index of 0.604 with a ranking at 151 out 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

- PNG joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2016.
- PNG has a National Nutrition Policy 2016-2026, which outlines seven priority objectives aimed at promoting improved nutrition outcomes for all people in PNG.
- A National Nutrition Strategic Action Plan for 2018-2022 was developed and efforts are now underway to develop a Strategic Action Plan for nutrition for 2023-2026, along with plans for monitoring and evaluation and advocacy.
- A national multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition was established in 2021.
- A number of SUN networks have been established in PNG, including a Civil Society Network, UN-Nutrition Network, SUN Academic Network and youth, parliamentarian and media networks.
- A priority is to complete the National Nutrition Survey, to provide up-to-date data for fostering nutrition investments and guiding evidence-based programming
- Nutrition-related resource mobilisation strategy, budget tracking exercises and financial gap analyses are yet to be conducted.

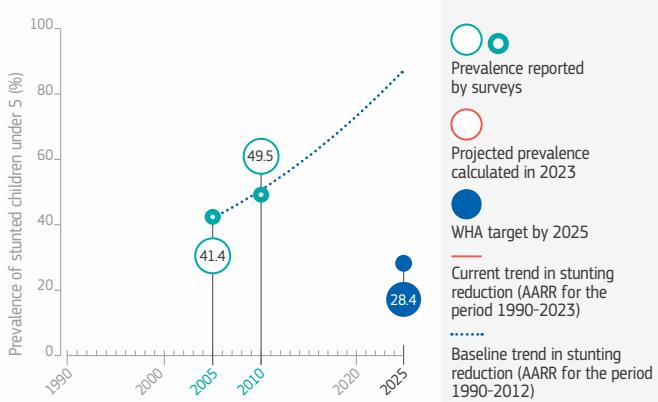
Example of EU support

Leading the EU-funded *Programme for Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea (EU-STREIT PNG 2020-2025)*, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) focuses on promoting fair participation of women in all nodes along three targeted value chains of cocoa, vanilla and fisheries. FAO supports the creation and enhancement of a gender-sensitive enabling environment and works on empowering women to play an active role and benefit equally from agribusiness activities, whilst preventing an increase of their burden, in the Sepik Region, as well as improving the quality and quantity of production, increasing incomes and improving nutrition outcomes in the region.

The EU-funded *Landscape Project (2020-2025)*, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports local organisations including cooperative societies, community and faith-based organisations, through the provision of low value grants. These grants provide seed funding and financing opportunities to improve and support climate friendly livelihood opportunities and enhanced food and nutrition security.

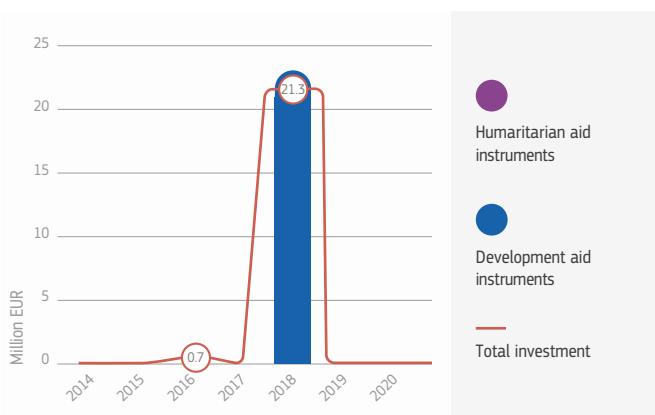


Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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

Papua New Guinea is not on track to meet the World Health Assembly stunting reduction target of 28.4% children stunted by 2025. The most recent nutrition survey in PNG was conducted in 2010, and prior to that in 2005, and the trend from these two surveys suggest a significant upward incline in the prevalence of stunting in the country. However, there is an urgent need to conduct a National Nutrition Survey to provide up-to-date data and to provide a clearer picture on the current state of all forms of malnutrition in the country.



EU MS FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – TOTAL OF EUR 22 MILLION

EU commitments for nutrition between 2014 and 2020 include EUR 21.3 million in development assistance for nutrition in 2018 for the support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea (EU STREIT PNG) described above², and EUR 0.7 million in 2016 for humanitarian aid and food assistance.

Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

At the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) in 2021, and in their [national pathway document](#), the Government of PNG made numerous commitments, including: the development of a National Implementation Strategy for improving performance with relation to WHA and SDG targets; a review of laws, policies, programmes and strategies for the transformation of agrifood systems and the development of partnerships to support the implementation of the priority actions of the food systems transformation pathways. Priorities include: empowerment of women and youth; collaboration with the education sector, placing emphasis on nutrition and healthy diets for children and forging partnerships with a range of stakeholders to address food insecurity, hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

Strategic priorities for nutrition have also been defined in the National Nutrition Plan, which include improving governance, coordination, communication, partnerships, monitoring and evaluation and research for nutrition; increasing capacity for addressing malnutrition; prevention and treatment of undernutrition; reducing micronutrient deficiencies as well as overweight and obesity; improving nutrition amongst vulnerable groups and improving response to nutritional emergencies. However, limited resources remain a challenge to their implementation.

Nutrition forms part of the 360-degree approach of the EU's Global Gateway. The Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for PNG is well placed to play a significant role in improving nutrition outcomes through support to the UNFSS commitments and National Nutrition Policy priorities. Priority Area 1 (Our Forest Our Future) provides opportunities to improve incomes and increase quality and diversity of diets by adopting a nutrition-sensitive approach to food systems and agribusiness support, and activities such as agroforestry, climate smart agriculture and sustainable value chains provide options to improve nutrition. Priority Area 2 (Water is Life, WASH for Human Development) also favours improved nutrition outcomes for women and children, by reducing the risk of disease and improving hygiene.

Facilitating internal trade for agricultural products through improved transport infrastructure is considered an urgent priority: the breadbasket for Papua New Guinea is located in the provinces of the Highlands. Unfortunately, the transport infrastructure to distribute these products to the main markets (Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Rabaul) is either in a critical state or non-existent.

Blending operations and the guarantee scheme ESFD+ provide an opportunity to support the rehabilitation and/or construction of climate-proof transport facilities, thereby reducing transportation costs and improving the efficiency of the internal market of agricultural products with benefits for consumers.

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

2 - Data in this section excludes some regional, global and policy/research/information commitments that could not be disaggregated by beneficiary country. 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.