

SOMALIA

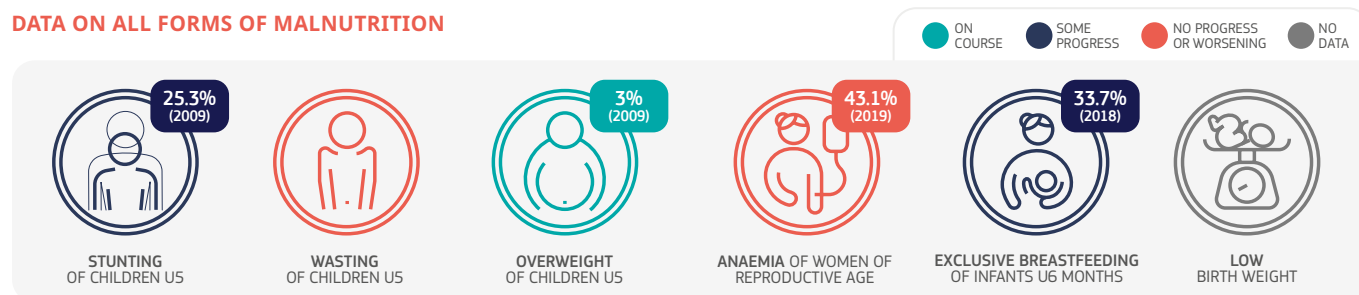
Nutrition situation in SOMALIA

AT A GLANCE

For the past three decades, Somalia (estimated population approximately 18.7 million people¹) 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 deficiencies². 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 severe impact of five consecutive seasons of poor rainfall exacerbated by high food prices and ongoing internal conflict: 6.5 million are facing critical food insecurity (IPC phase 3³ or above) and 1.8 million children (over half the population of children under-five) face acute malnutrition⁴. Somalia has a Gender Inequality index value of 0.674, ranking at 164 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

- Somalia has been a member of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement since 2014.
- 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 developed a Somalia Nutrition Strategy 2020-2025 which includes both prevention and treatment of maternal and child malnutrition, support to IYCF practices, strengthened nutrition capacities at all levels and mainstreaming nutrition across all relevant sectors.
- 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 (focused specifically on the humanitarian response) also meets on a quarterly basis to coordinate nutrition interventions.
- In December 2023 Somalia launched the Somalia Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan (FSCPP).

Example of EU support

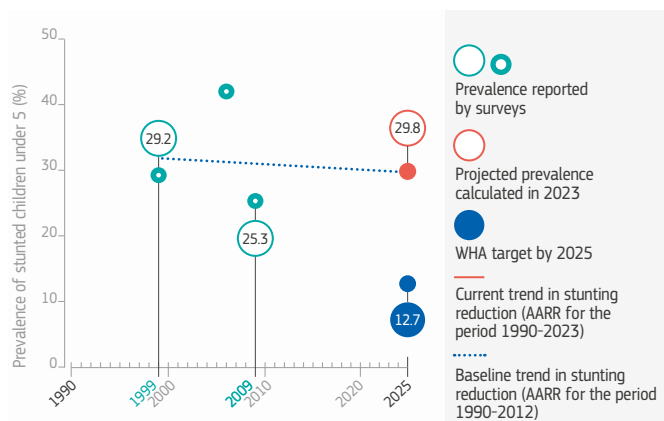
The EU has been supporting the Somali Resilience Programme (SomRep), a multi-donor seven-year initiative to boost the capacity of vulnerable Somali communities, since 2011. Managed by a consortium of seven NGOs, SomRep integrates nutrition interventions into resilience building programming through: (i) nutrition skills training in village savings and loan associations; and (ii) nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

The training draws on mothers or carers of well-nourished children from poor families to share positive practices with those with malnourished children. These include infant and young child feeding, early detection of malnutrition, healthy diets and eating habits and 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.

The EU also supports the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia initiative (BRCiS), a consortium seeking to build the resilience of households in vulnerable communities through investment in human capital with a nutrition-sensitive lens.

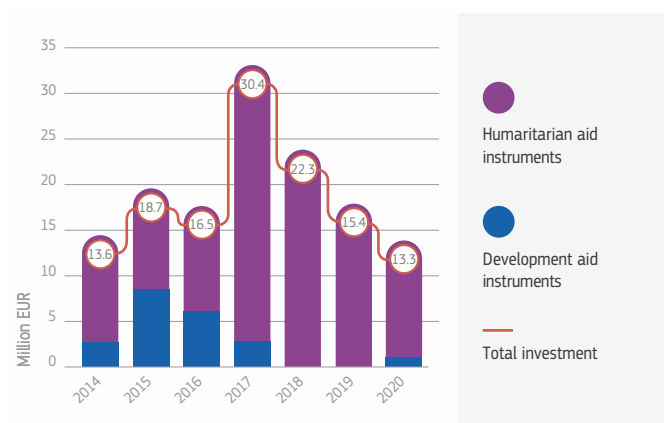


Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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

The Somalia Nutrition Strategy 2020-2025 commits to reducing the proportion of children stunted aged under-five to 11.2% by 2025. The available quantitative nutrition data in Somalia is limited, which does not facilitate regular monitoring. 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 in 2022 is estimated at 0.26%, comparable to the baseline year 2012. If this trend continues, over a million children are expected to be stunted in 2025.



EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – A TOTAL OF EUR 130 MILLION

Nutrition-focused EU investments in Somalia have principally been through the Horn of Africa's humanitarian implementation plan to support food and cash assistance to populations vulnerable to drought and the effects of climate change. Since 2014, EU support has focused on building longer-term resilience through crisis prevention and post-crisis response such as in the SomRep and BRCIS projects. In 2018, two major projects were initiated (RESTORE), which addressed underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition and aimed to restore livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable households and communities in Somaliland and Puntland. Further commitments of EUR 7.8 million through humanitarian aid instruments were made in 2021 and EUR 69.6 million (of which EUR 14.6 m through humanitarian aid instruments) in 2022, with development aid to 'Food Production and Resilience of Food Systems' and 'Boosting Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change' (BREACH), both of which include nutrition objectives⁵.

Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

The Federal Government of Somalia made a number of commitments at the [2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth \(N4G\) Summit](#), including to:

- increase domestic funding for nutrition across government line ministries from 3% in 2020 to 5% by 2025 and institutionalise annual nutrition budget expenditure tracking and analysis;
- appoint nutrition focal persons in all line ministries at Federal and State levels and facilitate bi-annual, multi-stakeholder SUN meetings;
- develop domestic food fortification and labelling guidelines to operationalise the Somalia food fortification strategy by 2023;
- endorse a National School Feeding Policy by 2022 and enact a Somalia Breast Milk Substitutes (Regulation and Control) Act by 2024;
- integrate stunting prevalence and infant and young child feeding indicators in annual national nutrition assessments; and reduce the prevalence of wasting and stunting among children aged 6-59 months from 14% and 27% in 2019 to 9% and 25% respectively by 2025.

Somalia developed a position paper for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit: [Towards Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Somalia](#), which identified transformative actions towards strengthening agri-food systems and addressing all forms of malnutrition through seven pathways. The pathway on Shocks and Social Protection Impacts on Food Systems, includes support for the adoption and scaling up of nutrition-sensitive, government-led social protection programmes; and investments in diversified nutrition-sensitive value chains.

Nutrition elements of the EU's Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for Somalia are primarily in the third priority area: Resilience Building and Social Inclusion, applying the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Expected results include durable solutions for displacement-affected communities with access to basic services (including nutrition) and social protection; and promotion of sustainable nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems and resilient infrastructure to enhance livelihoods and diets. The MIP's second priority area: Inclusive and Green Economic Growth also focuses on enhancing nutrition-sensitivity of sustainable agri-food systems.

BREACH further addresses these result areas by supporting agri-food systems to provide equitable access to sufficient, safe and affordable nutritious foods; raising awareness on nutrition and diets in both school and health facilities; and providing essential nutrition services. Additionally, Somalia is benefitting from the action Food Production and Resilience of Food Systems in ACP countries which aims to increase the share of the population able to afford a healthy diet. In Somalia, the proposed action will increase domestic food production through sustainable agri-food, fisheries and livestock value chains (including nutrition-sensitive training) whilst strengthening the resilience and access to basic services of targeted communities in food crisis situations.

In 2024, the EU is also supporting the formulation of the Somalia Food Security Strategy and Action Plan.

1 - UNDESA [World Population Prospects 2022](#), population estimate for July 2024.

2 - Somalia Micronutrient Survey 2019.

3 - [IPC Phase 3](#) indicates a crisis where some households are not consuming enough food and have high levels of malnutrition, while others are adopting irreversible coping strategies, such as selling assets that support their livelihoods to support a limited diet.

4 - [PC Somalia Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Situation January to March 2023 and Projection for April to June 2023](#).

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.