

SOUTH SUDAN

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### Nutrition situation in South Sudan

#### AT A GLANCE

South Sudan has a population of 11 million people<sup>1</sup>. The country faces multiple intersecting crises that have a profound and adverse impact on food and nutrition security. Some of the difficulties include insecurity, subnational violence, evolving regional and national socioeconomic challenges exacerbated by the global economic slump, and the effects of climate change. Four years of extensive flooding, levels not seen since the 1960s, have altered the size of wetland areas in the centre of the country (the Sudd), potentially permanently, and has led to the destruction of livelihoods and the loss of arable land. Furthermore, the ongoing conflict in Sudan forces thousands of people to cross into South

Sudan. The conflict has also had a notable impact on trade with Sudan, with decreasing imports contributing to an increase in the cost of the food basket. Currently 2.3 million people are internally displaced with high unmet health, humanitarian and protection needs and 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees reside in neighbouring countries. There are no data for South Sudan in the 2023-24 Gender Inequality Index. The [Children's Climate Risk Index](#) (CCRI) ranks South Sudan as the 7th worst country for where children are at risk from the impacts of climate change.

#### 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

- South Sudan joined the SUN movement in 2013 and currently the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Health is the Government SUN Focal Point. There is a need to strengthen the mandate of the SUN Focal Point to lead and influence the engagement of other line ministries and sectors in SUN activities in South Sudan.
- In collaboration with other stakeholders, the MOH has initiated the development of a new food and nutrition policy for South Sudan and the Multi-Stakeholder Platform, established in 2019, has prioritised the development of a costed multisectoral nutrition strategic plan.
- A Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition was established in 2022, and the ministries of Health; Agriculture and Food Security; and Gender, Child and Social Welfare advocated for the mainstreaming of nutrition and allocation of resources for nutrition from the national budget.
- The South Sudan SUN Movement Steering Committee is responsible for the coordination of multisectoral nutrition-related stakeholders.
- South Sudan is a member of the SUN Convergence Hub, which accommodates fragile and conflict-affected SUN countries in a forum for learning and sharing experiences.
- The National Nutrition Cluster is responsible for the coordination of emergency nutrition actions in South Sudan.

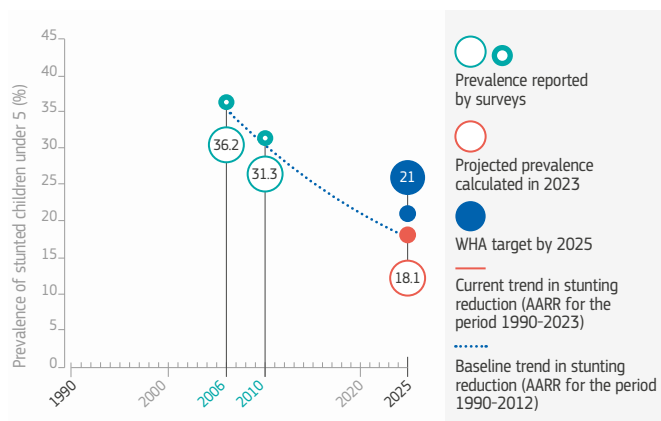
#### Example of EU support

Strengthening the health system and service delivery support in South Sudan, particularly for women and children: The EU is a contributor to a multi-donor Trust Fund to implement the Health Sector Transformation Program (HSTP), the main intervention in the health sector in South Sudan in the next 3 years (mid-2024 to mid-2027). Aligned with SDG2 and recognising that health outcomes are almost fully dependent on external partners, the HSTP will strike a balance between maintaining essential services while expanding and deepening systems support with the aim to strengthen public sector commitment, service delivery capacity, and health personnel skills.

Nutrition is part of the basic package for health services for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) and includes: screening and referral at community and health facility level, prevention of malnutrition through awareness campaign including breastfeeding and best feeding practices.



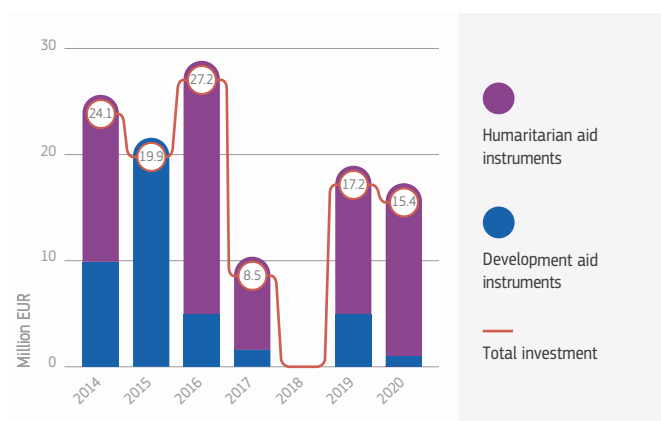
## Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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

In the 2021 Tokyo Compact on Global Nutrition for Growth, the Government of South Sudan committed to reduce the prevalence of stunted children under five from 15.1% in 2020 to 10% in 2030. The figure from 2020 is generated by the annual Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) although it tends to focus on acute malnutrition as do the complementary SMART surveys. The latest joint monitoring estimate (JME) data from 2010 indicates a stunting prevalence of 31.3%. Although there was a decline in stunting between 2006 and 2010, the lack of recent JME data makes it difficult to track comparable progress.

Furthermore, conflict (both in South Sudan and neighbouring countries) and climatic factors are likely to influence the projected trajectory.



### EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – A TOTAL OF EUR 122.3 MILLION

Between 2014 and 2020, the EU committed EUR 112.3 million for nutrition, of this EUR 29.3 million was for development activities while EUR 82.9 million was for humanitarian interventions.

In 2021 and 2022, the EU committed EUR 55.9 million for nutrition solely for humanitarian purposes<sup>3</sup>.

## Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2021 aimed to accelerate progress on achieving the global nutrition targets by 2025. All registered and verified N4G commitments can be found in the N4G Compact and its Annex. The Government of South Sudan's intentions for nutrition include to:

- reduce wasting in children under-five from 16.2% in 2020 to 5% by 2030 and to reduce stunting in children under-five from 15.1% in 2020 to 10% by 2030;
- develop a Food and Nutrition Policy and a multi-sectoral costed strategy for nutrition;
- develop a breast milk substitute code in line with the International code of the marketing of breastmilk substitutes;
- increase the government's budget for nutrition by 10%.

This will facilitate the following activities:

- scaling up of nutrition treatment integrated with health care service delivery platforms;
- improving quality and scaling up of the maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) and maternal and child health (MNCH) programmes including the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases;
- strengthening of food value chains that aim to improve the availability and affordability of healthy and nutritious diets;
- strengthening social protection in areas with food insecurity;
- scaling up school health nutrition programmes.

Nutrition forms part of the 360-degree approach of the EU's Global Gateway. The MIP for South Sudan is well positioned to contribute to these commitments, especially under the objective to improve food and nutrition security, prevention and preparedness for food crises (Priority area 1: Green and resilient economy) and the objective to increase inclusive availability, efficiency and effectiveness of basic services in education and health (Priority area 2 Human development).

Alongside its support to the HSTP (see example of EU support above), the EU is also supporting the project *Strengthened Access to education and livelihoods and enhanced reintegration and community cohesion in areas affected by displacement and return*, in partnership with IOM, UNICEF and WFP. The project will implement school feeding activities, which serve as a safety net to incentivise education for children thereby increasing enrolment and retention of children in schools as well as supporting learning. The optimal modality for school feeding will be identified, such as daily on-site hot meals or take-home rations, the latter of which caters for schools where food storage and or cooking facilities are not yet available. Where appropriate, linkages will be made between local agricultural production and school feeding food requirements, offering a market for local produce by smallholder farmers. Nutrition-related academic curricula will be delivered to schools and the establishment of school gardens will be facilitated to teach children the importance of a diverse and nutritious diet and basic agricultural skills.

1 - UNDESA World Population Prospects 2022, estimate for July 2023.

2 - The average GAM (moderate and severe acute malnutrition) of all SMART surveys conducted in 2023 was 17.4%.

3 - 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.