

YEMEN

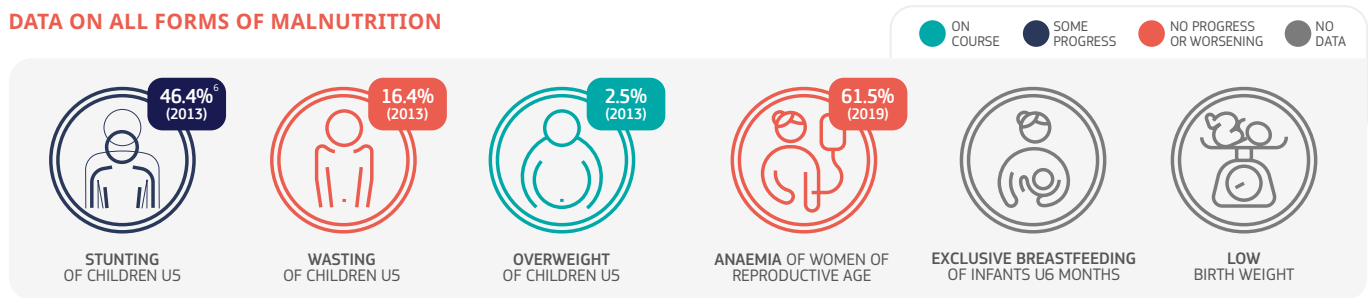
Nutrition situation in Yemen

AT A GLANCE

Yemen, with its population of 34.1 million people¹ (estimated to reach 39.5 million by 2030) is suffering from one of the devastating humanitarian crises in the world, exacerbated by eight years of civil war. The protracted conflict has resulted in the destruction of infrastructure, livelihoods, and social services, and weakened the resilience of communities and governance systems. In 2023, Yemen was one of the most food insecure countries in the world. About 73% of the population depended on humanitarian assistance, with 21.6 million people in IPC phase 3 and above², including 4.5 million internally displaced persons³. New challenges such as climate change and the global disruptions in grain supplies due to the Russian war

of aggression against Ukraine has significantly exacerbated the situation⁴. According to the most recent MICS survey from May 2023, one in 25 children dies before reaching five years of age, and only 2% of mothers practice exclusive breastfeeding. Nutritional challenges remain significant, with 49% of children under five experiencing chronic malnutrition, and 17% moderately or severely wasted. Over two thirds of women of reproductive age have anaemia. Gender inequality is deep-rooted in society. Structural inequality impedes women's and girls' access to basic services, leading to a massive gender gap in literacy and basic education and high maternal mortality rates⁵.

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

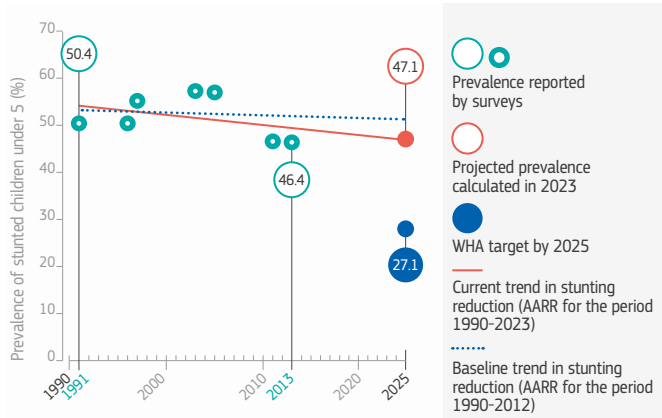
- Yemen joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2012.
- The ongoing conflict continues to hinder efforts to improve nutrition governance, particularly at sub-national levels.
- The Minister of Planning is the Government's focal point for nutrition. Nutrition focal points have been established in key ministries (health, agriculture, fisheries, water/environment and education) and nutrition budget lines have been established for each sector.
- The Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (including a common results framework) and an advocacy strategy aim to scale up financial commitments and to strengthen donors' alignment with the national budget for nutrition.
- The Yemeni government commitments at the 2021 Tokyo (N4G) Summit included to strengthen the transition between humanitarian and development programming across sectors for better nutrition, including increased investment in preparedness and recovery.

Example of EU support

The Enhancing Community Resilience and Livelihoods in Yemen phase III (ERRY III-2022-2025) is co-financed by the EU (EUR 35 million) and SIDA (EUR 9 million) and implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP and WFP in seven governorates: Al-mahwit, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz and Sana'a. The overall objective is to strengthen resilience of the population in the most vulnerable governorates in Yemen, with special emphasis on improving the risk and shock management in crisis-affected communities. The youth, women, the unemployed, internally displaced persons and stressed host communities, and people with disabilities, are involved in the project activities using inclusive, participatory, and conflict-sensitive tools. Access of target groups to food, livelihoods and income generation activities is a key outcome, along with ensuring active partnerships between local authorities, the private sector, communities, the Social Fund for Development, and local and international NGOs. The action Comprehensive Nutrition Support for Vulnerable Food Insecure Communities in Abyan and Lahj Governorates (EUR 4.7 million) supports strengthening of community level resilience and local institutions combining resilient agricultural production, income generation, nutrition, social and behaviour change communication, infant and young child feeding, and capacity building of local service providers.

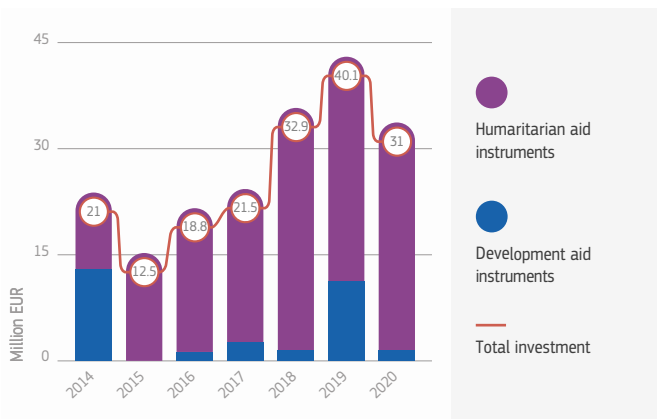


Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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

Yemen has experienced a slight decline in the prevalence of stunting since 1990, but due to population growth the number of children stunted has increased. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has marginally accelerated from 0.10% in 2012 to 0.41% in 2022. If this is maintained, recent projections estimate that 2.26 million under five will be stunted by 2025 (against the World Health Assembly target of 1.3 million).



EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – TOTAL OF EUR 178 MILLION

Between 2014 and 2020, the majority of EU commitments to nutrition were for humanitarian assistance (EUR 147.2 million), including life-saving treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition. The development interventions (EUR 30.6 million) have been focused on enhancing population resilience. Between 2021-2022, the EU committed EUR 152.6 million, of which EUR 109.6 million for humanitarian assistance and EUR 43 million for development interventions. Resilience financing (PROACT) was committed yearly from 2016 till 2019 with a total of EUR 6.3 million. Most recently in 2021, the EU invested EUR 8 million in the project 'Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision Making in Yemen through Improved Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Information and Analysis' with nutrition as main objective⁷.

Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

During the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, the Yemen Government made a number of commitments (see the [annex of the N4G Compact](#)), including strengthening of national nutrition data and coordination systems and to strengthen the policy and regulatory environment for nutrition within universal health care.

Due to a complex socio-political context, the situation in Yemen remains extremely fragile and uncertain. Several factors such as the ongoing and protracted conflict and the presence of terrorist organisations are threatening the political and security situation. In this context, the drafting of a new multi-annual programming document has not been possible. The EU has decided to adopt special measures as a funding mechanism to cope with the urgent country needs reinforcing the ongoing humanitarian efforts in Yemen.

The special measure focusses on the following action areas: (a) Supporting resilient livelihoods, food security, and climate adaptation (b) Strengthening evidence-based decision making through improved food security, nutrition and livelihoods information and analysis, and (c) Creating opportunities for early economic recovery.

The action 'Supporting resilient livelihoods, food security, and climate adaptation in Yemen', in line with the priority action areas, aims to support crisis-affected communities to better manage local risks and shocks, including community-based conflict and climate change.

The action 'Strengthening evidence-based decision making in Yemen through improved food security, nutrition and livelihoods information and analysis' will equip decision makers with early warning information – including livelihoods profiles – and analysis on food, nutrition and livelihoods security to better respond to food crises, acute malnutrition and climate change. Moreover, two new actions will enhance food security and improve resilience among vulnerable population and internally displaced persons in Yemen: 'sustainable outreach for multi-dimensional opportunities and community upliftment & development (SOMOUD) 2024-2028', with EUR 26 million, and 'achieving meaningful and lasting solutions for internally displaced persons (AMAL) 2024-2027' (EUR 10 million).

1 - [World Population Prospects 2022](#), UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs. Medium variant estimate as per 1 January 2023

2 - In the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), phase 3 represents a crisis: 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.

3 - <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/yemen>

4 - Yemen imported 44% of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine.

5 - Yemen has a Gender Inequality Index Value of 0.820 and is ranked at 166 of 166 countries (2022).

6 - Stunting progress indications are based on the [stunting reduction calculation tool](#)

7 - 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 the OECD DAC's nutrition policy marker from 2021 onwards.