



KENYA

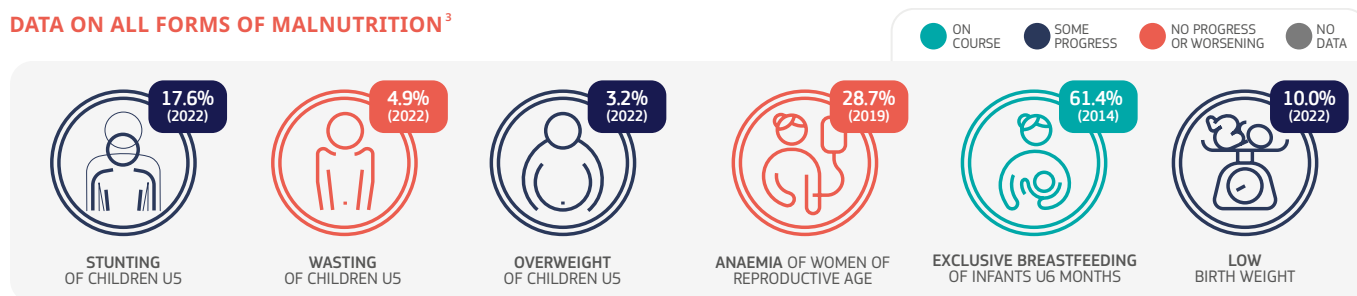
Nutrition situation in KENYA

AT A GLANCE

Kenya has a population of 55.1 million people¹, and by 2050 half the population are expected to be urban. The country hosts more than half a million refugees². Despite persistent poverty rates (36%), Kenya has made significant progress in reducing the prevalence of all forms of malnutrition. From over 40% in the mid-1990s, the prevalence of stunting has reduced to 17.6% in 2022. However, there are significant geographical and socio-demographic variations

in stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies: the arid and semi-arid areas of northern, central and eastern Kenya are the worst affected and experience wasting prevalence in excess of 20%. These areas are particularly vulnerable to climate change, gender disparities, limited access to safe water and sanitation, and poor infant feeding practices. Kenya has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.533 and is ranked at 139 of 166 countries in the 2023-24 index.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION³



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

- In September 2012, Kenya joined the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) was launched.
- In 2017 food and nutrition security was selected as one of the President's 'Big Four' priorities. Kenya's Vision 2030 includes 100% food and nutrition security through enhancing large-scale food production, driving smallholder productivity and reducing the cost of food to improve accessibility to all.
- Kenya's second National Nutrition Action Plan (2018-2022) operationalises the NFNSP and its implementation framework (NFNSP-IF) 2017-2022. The multi-sectoral plan applies a life-course approach and employs a monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning framework. The Ministry of Health convenes the Nutrition Interagency Coordinating Committee.
- Mandatory salt iodisation began in 1978 and fortification of maize, wheat flour and oil started in 2012; the EU is supporting maize flour fortification at national level in partnership with the JKUAT University through 2023.
- The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative, launched in 2018 with EU support, generates key analysis to inform nutrition policy and strategies, following the creation of a centralised repository for multi-sectoral data and a platform for stakeholders to access data and publications related to food security and nutrition in Kenya. This has enabled government staff to utilise and analyse data for policy development.

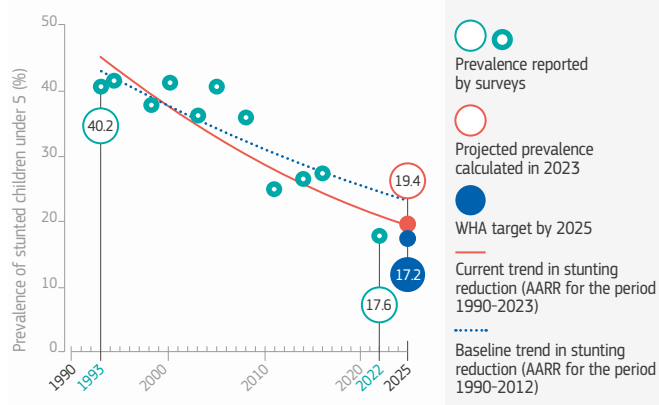
Example of EU support

The EU-funded (EUR 20.8 million) FAO Digital Land Governance Programme 2022-2027 seeks to support Kenya's Vision 2030 through transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, agri-food systems. The objective of the programme is to improve food and nutrition security, livelihoods and sustainable socioeconomic development through equitable and secure access and management of land and natural resources. Anticipated results include improved land governance including administration (digitisation & digitalisation), planning, use and management in the counties, conflict resolution and management, and improved land policy, legal and institutional frameworks. Activities include:

- encouraging environmentally friendly livelihoods ventures, for income and food and nutrition security
- linking community groups to government entities and partners to engage in interventions to combat desertification and land degradation to preserve or enhance provision of ecosystem services through livelihood ventures including eco-tourism, sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products and other bio-enterprises;
- strengthening inclusion and participation of youth, women, illiterate population, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, indigenous communities and other vulnerable and marginalized groups in land governance processes, access and use of land and natural resources.

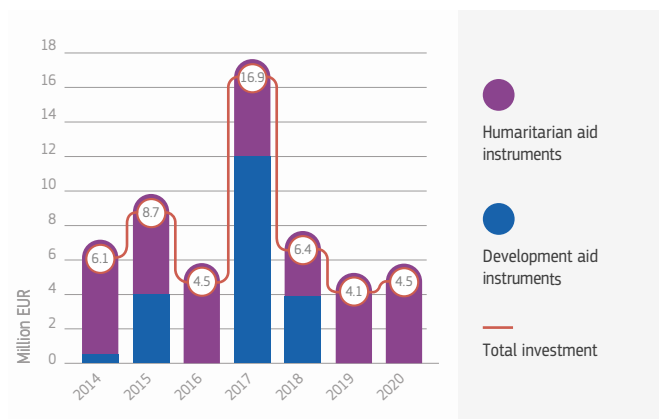


Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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

Through its nutrition action plan, Kenya committed to reduce stunting of children under five to 17% by 2022. This aspiration is furthered through Kenya's 'Big 4' intentions to achieve a 27% reduction in malnutrition among children under five years of age, through its Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy 2019-2029⁴. Kenya has achieved a significant decline in the prevalence of stunting in the last 30 years and the 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey data surpasses the trend line for projected prevalence. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted was estimated in 2012 at 1.91% and has increased to 2.63% in 2022. If this trend is maintained, nearly 1.4 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025.



EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – A TOTAL OF EUR 51.1 MILLION

Significant EU investments for nutrition include 'Support to Resilient Livelihoods and Drought Risk Management', comprising four resilience projects, with EUR 7.6 million estimated as funding for nutrition, contributing to the National Drought Management Authority's early warning system at county level. 'Support to the Agriculture Sector Transformation Process and to Decentralised Land Governance' amounting to EUR 16 million (of this, 25% for nutrition) is another nutrition-sensitive programme, aiming to support food security of smallholder farmers and pastoralist communities by improving access to agriculture services and land. Other EU financial commitments include the NIPN initiative, food fortification at national level, nutritious agricultural value chains and climate-smart agricultural research. In 2021, EUR 20 million was committed through development aid instruments and EUR 6.1 million through humanitarian aid. In 2022, EUR 81 million was committed through the Green Deal Team Europe Initiative, comprising a significant nutrition objective and EUR 2.5 million through humanitarian aid⁵.

Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

Kenya developed a national position paper on the [Pathway to Sustainable Food Systems](#) during its preparations for the 2021 [UN Food Systems Summit](#). Its aspirations include:

- improving the diversity of diets including fruits, vegetables, dairy, meat and fish, as well as grains; and
- heightening climate action to build the resilience of Kenyans.

Significant areas of Kenya remain food insecure and still suffer a high prevalence of malnutrition because of lack of access to essential health, and water and sanitation facilities. The situation is exacerbated by climate change, influencing recurrent and prolonged droughts followed by heavy rains and flooding, episodes of locust infestation and the COVID-19 pandemic 2020-2021. It is critical to improve household resilience, gender equity, livelihood opportunities and natural resource management as well as access to basic services to alleviate poverty and undernutrition in these areas. Furthermore, inadequate food systems, water supply and sanitation are affecting a fast-growing urban population in Kenya where all forms of malnutrition are evident among poorer wealth quintiles.

Nutrition forms part of the 360-degree approach of the EU's Global Gateway. The Team Europe Initiative⁶ for a 'Green Deal Kenya' is supporting sustainable and inclusive growth and post-COVID recovery, and opportunities for private and public investment to create jobs and enhance food security, livelihoods and environmental protection, all of which are conducive to better nutrition, human development and reduced inequalities.

Promoting climate-smart sustainable agri-food systems is important in Kenya, given their key role in promoting regional food security.

The EU-Kenya Programme on Dryland Climate Action for Community Drought Resilience 2023-2027 forms part of the EU's Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027. It is being implemented in the drought-prone arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya with the objective of enhancing resilience to drought and other effects of climate change in target communities. The programme prioritises application of integrated value chain development approaches focused on drought-relevant livestock and high nutrition value chains. The programme's success will be measured through assessment of the percentage change in malnutrition levels during drought and percentage change in coping strategy index.

A humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach will be applied to resilience building amongst the most vulnerable populations in the arid and semi-arid lands and refugee populations where food and nutrition security is of particular concern.

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

2 - KNBS Economic Survey Report, figure for 2022

3 - The data in the table are from the UNICEF/WHO/The World Bank joint child malnutrition estimates (JME) 2023. The more recent 2022 KDHS figure for exclusive breastfeeding is 60%.

4 - <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Kenya-FSS-Dialogue-Series-National-Position-Paper.pdf>

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.

6 - With Germany, Italy, France, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark, The Netherlands, Finland, Slovakia, Ireland, and Austria.