The European Commission (EC) is continuing to work strategically to secure traction on its commitments to reduce stunting and to allocate EUR 3.5 billion (2014-20) for this purpose\(^1\). Preliminary results for 2016 indicate a three-fold increase in the EC’s commitments to nutrition since 2014. This is a significant development, but this pace of investment needs to be maintained in order to reach the pledge by 2020. The scope to achieve this lies in the strategic design of programmes that are still to be funded – especially in the focal sectors of Food & Nutrition Security, Sustainable Agriculture, Health and Education – so that nutrition is integrated alongside other objectives. This approach is particularly relevant to the new EU Consensus on Development which places emphasis on human development and dignity as well as partnership, prosperity, peace and the planet itself.

Due to the ongoing complex emergency in parts of Somalia, the EU’s focus has been more on wasting than stunting. Wasting in much of south-central Somalia is constantly above the WHO emergency threshold of 15%. Due to access issues, reliable data on stunting amongst children under five is limited; but what analysis can be drawn indicates that the current high risk of famine in parts of Somalia, exacerbated by severe drought, will prevent any further gains for the immediate future. The prevalence rates of both anaemia and vitamin A deficiency among women and children of all age groups are classified as severe by WHO. Somalia has a very high under-five mortality rate, with undernutrition being a major contributor. The Government of Somalia has demonstrated its political commitment to nutrition by joining the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement and setting ambitious targets to reduce undernutrition in its new National Development Plan 2017-2019. The EU has provided long-standing support to the Food Security & Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), which undertakes quarterly assessments and provides a comprehensive, livelihoods analysis of Somalia. This has facilitated the timely release of information in 2017 in support of a rapid mobilisation of the international community and so far avoiding the declaration of famine in Somalia.

### Number of stunted children under 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>National target</th>
<th>WHA Target</th>
<th>Expected according to current trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>0.41 million</td>
<td>0.15 million</td>
<td>0.32 million</td>
<td>0.59 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Progress against the World Health Assembly targets\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GNR 2016 analysis of progress</th>
<th>WHA (and SDG) nutrition indicators</th>
<th>Prevalence</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off course – Some progress</td>
<td>Stunting of children US years of age (SDG2)</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>412 999</td>
<td>2009(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off course</td>
<td>Wasting of children US years of age (SDG2)</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>265 245</td>
<td>2009(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On course – Good progress</td>
<td>Overweight of children US years of age</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>51 625</td>
<td>2009(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently off course</td>
<td>Anaemia of women of reproductive age</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>1 804 189</td>
<td>2011(^4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Low birth weight</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off course – No progress</td>
<td>Exclusive breastfeeding of infants U6 months</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2009(^4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data last referenced by EU

\(^1\) Preliminary results for 2016 indicate a three-fold increase in the EC’s commitments to nutrition since 2014.

\(^2\) Data last referenced by EU.

\(^3\) Data last referenced by EU.

\(^4\) Data last referenced by EU.
Trend, projection and targets in the prevalence and number of children (under-five) stunted

Implications for development planners

Somalia has experienced a decline in the prevalence of stunting since 2005, but the number of children stunted remains significant due to population growth. Recent projections anticipate that Somalia won’t meet neither the government’s own target by 2019, nor the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025. The rate of stunting reduction estimated in 2016 was 1.31%; even if this is maintained, over half a million children are expected to be stunted in 2025. This is almost double the WHA target, and by extension, that of the principal indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2). Consequently, additional efforts are required by the government and development partners to increase investments in resilience building, to accelerate Somalia's course, and secure the level of stunting reduction needed.

Nutrition governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of SUN Movement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Since 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government’s commitment to nutrition (including N4G event)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To reduce the prevalence of stunting in children 0-59 months to below 7% by 2019 (National Development Plan for Somalia 2017-2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The first National Development Plan (NDP) for Somalia 2017-2019 has been developed and will contain a section on nutrition integrated into the pillar on “Social and Human Development”. Nutrition is also mainstreamed into other sections on economic development (agriculture, fisheries) and resilience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>There is a multi-sectoral platform comprising eight ministries in addition to the Prime Minister’s Office, which hosts the SUN focal point and the secretariat. The UN SUN network for Somalia was launched in April 2016. There is no SUN donor convener.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

Data collected March 2017

The EU commitments to nutrition in Somalia through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014–2020 for Somalia nutrition is prioritised through the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) focal sector to which EUR 72 million⁵ have been allocated. By the end of 2016, a total of EUR 59 million is committed under FNSSA sector of which EUR 8.5 million⁶ is for nutrition plus EUR 2.5 million⁷ from a thematic programme (as per the SUN methodology).

Preliminary results for 2016 indicate a 3-fold increase in the EU’s global funding commitments to nutrition since 2014 as illustrated in Figure 2. The total amount of funding commitments for nutrition globally in the last three years is EUR 1.8 billion, which represents 51% of the EU overall financial commitment for the period 2014–2020. In 2016 alone, the EU’s financial commitments to nutrition have reached EUR 790 million. This is a significant development, but this pace of investment needs to be maintained in order to reach the EUR 3.5 billion target by 2020.
Support of the EU and Member States

NIP Focal sector(s) for nutrition 2014–2020

- Food security and building resilience

In the New Development Cooperation Strategy 2017-2020 pillar two:
Respond to vulnerabilities and create economic opportunities

Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition

- Support to national institutions in preparing and implementing strategies on resilience, nutrition, better disaster management and natural resource management
- Support to coordination mechanisms for the delivery of interventions aimed at building resilience, food and nutrition security

Scaling-up actions

- Transition from emergency interventions to longer-term development cooperation
- Support to water access and hygiene education
- Strong mobilisation of ECHO and EU Member States to contribute mitigating impact of the current drought and avoiding famine, DEVCO to contribute to drought recovery
- Investment and employment creation in urban areas
- Focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable pastoralists as well as riverine and rain-fed farming communities
- Focus on fisheries development and integrated coastal zone management
- Strong emphasis on gender analysis and gender-sensitive approaches
- Support to livelihood recovery, food and nutrition security for the benefit of chronically food insecure populations through consolidated mechanism of social transfers
- Better disaster management
- Support to coordination mechanisms for the delivery of interventions aimed at building resilience, food and nutrition security
- Promotion of durable solutions for displacement affected communities

Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base

- Promotion of applied research and information to support the sustainable development of the main productive sectors including agriculture and livestock
- Support to the collection and analysis of food and nutrition security information

1 The EU stunting reduction target is embodied in the EU’s Communication on Enhancing Maternal and Child Nutrition and the Action Plan on Nutrition to operationalise that policy
2 http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrition_globaltargets2025/en/
3 FSNAU/UCL National Micronutrient and Anthropometric Survey Somalia 2009 (and additional analysis)
4 Global Nutrition Report (GNR)
5 The initial allocation to FNSSA sector in the NIP was reduced from EUR 86 million to EUR 72 million. EUR 14 million were reallocated to security.
6 CRIS number: 37-615 – EU contribution amount: EUR 34 million – nutrition score: partial – nutrition amount: EUR 8.5 million