

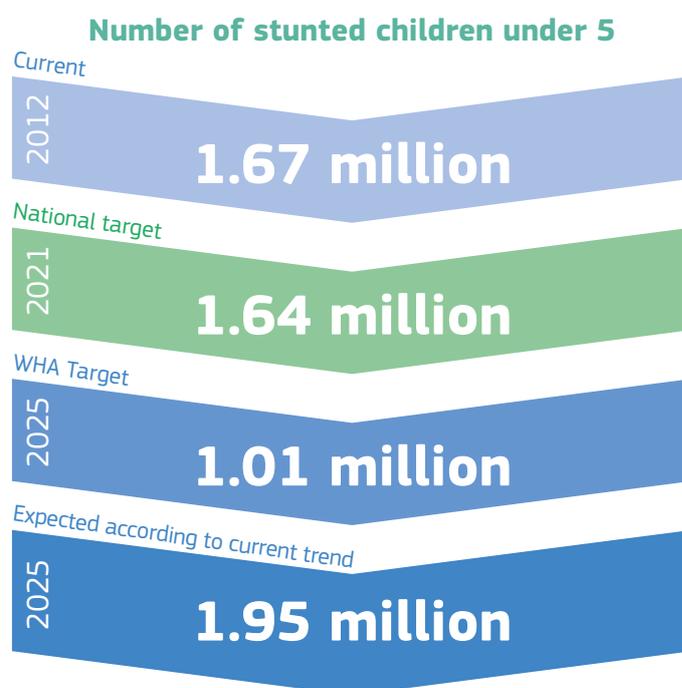
## Country Profile on Nutrition

# Madagascar

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<sup>1</sup>. 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.

One in two children in Madagascar are stunted (half of them severely). This is the 4th highest stunting rate in the world. The situation improved only marginally over the past decade. With the current trend, the number of stunted children is projected to increase. Stunting was higher in rural areas (49%) and in the Central Highlands (>64%), among poor households and children whose mothers have little or no schooling (2012-13 data). Micronutrient deficiencies are serious public health concerns. Diets are insufficiently diversified and infant feeding practices are inadequate. Nutrition is recognized as a national priority and is integrated into various policies and programmes, in the strategic debates between donors and government, and in sectoral plans. A recent study estimated the cost of

undernutrition on Madagascar's economy to more than a billion and a half dollars annually (14.5% of GDP). Poverty reduction is at the core of EU's 2014-2020 programming with stunting reduction included as a specific objective for the rural development focal sector. Opportunities exist to improve nutrition across key complementary sectors through EU's interventions in infrastructure and rural development.



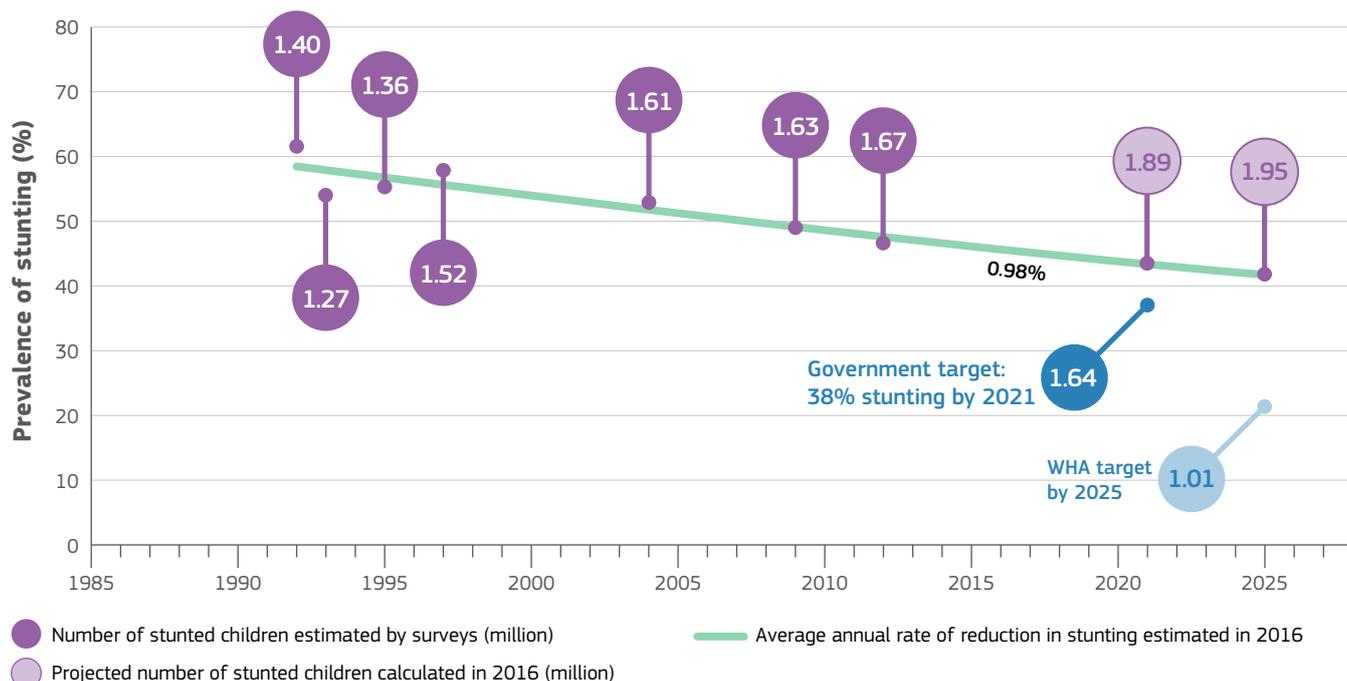
### Progress against the World Health Assembly targets<sup>2</sup>

GNR 2016 analysis of progress	WHA (and SDG) nutrition indicators
Off course - Some progress	Stunting of children U5 years of age (SDG2)
NA	Wasting of children U5 years of age (SDG2)
NA	Overweight of children U5 years of age
Currently off course	Anaemia of women of reproductive age
NA	Low birth weight
Off course - No progress	Exclusive breastfeeding of infants U6 months

### Data last referenced by EU

Prevalence	Number	Year
47.3%	1 668 936	2012 <sup>3</sup>
-	-	-
-	-	-
31.8%	3 260 720	2011 <sup>4</sup>
16.0%	-	2008 <sup>4</sup>
41.9%	-	2012 <sup>3</sup>

### Trend, projection and targets in the prevalence and number of children (under-five) stunted



### Implications for development planners

The prevalence of stunting in Madagascar has barely changed in two decades, but the absolute number of stunted children has increased due to population growth. Recent projections anticipate that Madagascar will not meet the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025. Most significantly, the rate of stunting reduction is below 1%; if this is maintained, then nearly 2 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025. This is nearly twice the WHA target, and by extension, that of the principal indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2). Consequently, additional efforts are urgently required by the government and development partners to change this trend in order to achieve the national target on stunting reduction.

### Nutrition governance

	Yes/No	Comment
Member of SUN Movement	Yes	Since 2012
Government's commitment to nutrition (including N4G event)	Yes	The Government of Madagascar committed to reduce stunting from 47% to 38%, reduce wasting to less than 5% and reduce low birth weight to 9% by 2021 (third National Nutrition Action Plan 2017-2021).
Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition	Yes	The National Nutrition Policy (PNN) and Action Plan (PNAN II) were evaluated in 2016. PNAN III (2017-2021) was officially launched in May 2017 and includes an increased focus on multi-sectoral coordination and wider population coverage. It has 3 pillars – nutrition specific interventions, nutrition sensitive approaches and nutrition governance. Effective communication and emergency response are crosscutting.
Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination	Yes	The National Office of Nutrition (ONN), positioned under the Prime Minister's office, is in charge of multi-sectoral coordination and is mandated to monitor the implementation of the national nutrition policy. The National Nutrition Council (CNN) provides ONN with the overall strategic guidance. There is an inclusive multi-sectoral/stakeholder dialogue and efforts to decentralise similar platforms to all 22 regions.

## EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

Data collected March 2017

The EU commitments to nutrition in Madagascar through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014–2020 for Madagascar nutrition is prioritised through the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) focal sector to which EUR 130 million have been allocated. By the end of 2016, no funding was committed yet and a total of EUR 120 million is identified under the FNSSA sector of which EUR 90 million for upcoming programmes in strengthening inclusive value chains for food and nutrition security in the North and building institutional capacities in resilient agriculture.

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.

### Progress against the EU’s financial pledge to reduce stunting 2014–2020:

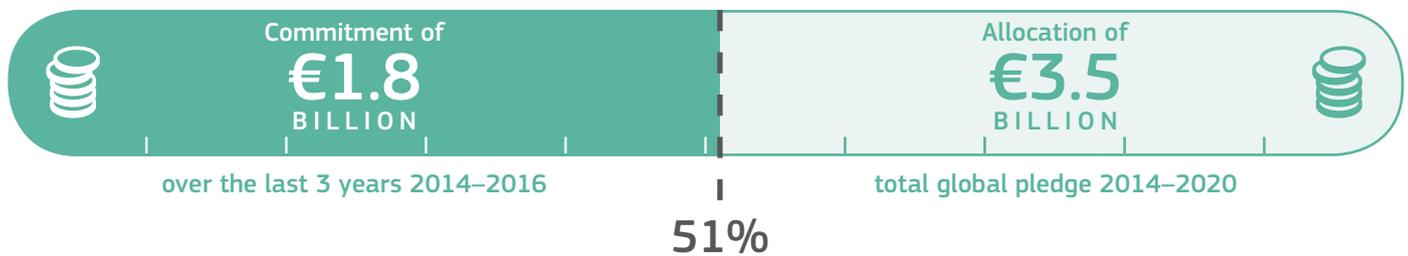


Figure 1

DEVCO Nutrition commitments in Madagascar (In EUR million) 2008–2016

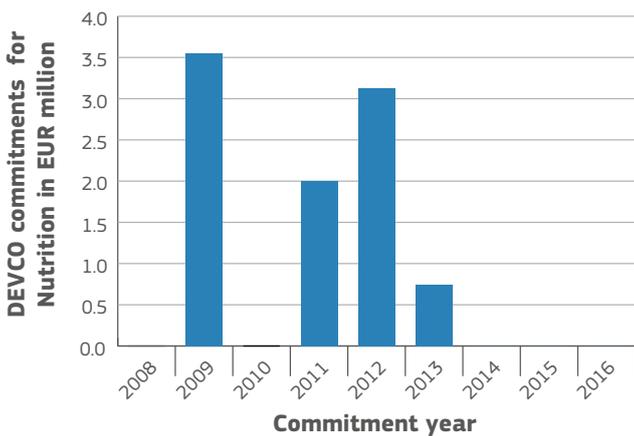
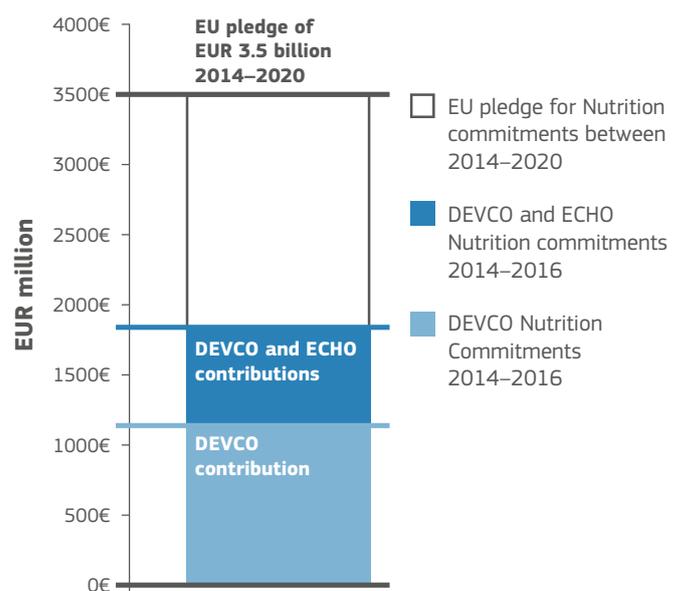


Figure 2

DEVCO and ECHO global commitments 2014–2016 to the EU pledge of EUR 3.5 billion to nutrition 2014–2020



## Support of the EU and Member States

### NIP Focal sector(s) for nutrition 2014–2020

- Infrastructure in support of economic development ('indirectly' integrated through improving access to the population and access to markets)
- Rural development (sector leading on nutrition)

## Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition

- ✓ Participate in coordination mechanisms and policy dialogue on nutrition together with other technical and financial partners.

## Scaling-up actions

Interventions directly supporting vulnerable rural/urban inhabitants in the areas of health/education, rural development and infrastructure through Transition Funds (on which 11th EDF actions are building):

- ✓ Strengthened delivery of and equitable access to basic quality services in health and education. This is being done by strengthening strategic capacities of central and decentralised public administrations for effective intersectoral planning, management and delivery of basic services relevant to nutrition.
- ✓ Increased access to quality food of the most vulnerable inhabitants in rural areas. Activities considered include: (i) improve the performance of the agricultural sector in particular strengthen the capacities of public and parastatal institutions in policy implementation and effective delivery of services relevant to nutrition and food security, (ii) support to agri-food value chains diversifying production, (iii) strengthen farmers' organisations, promoting rural entrepreneurship and better access to markets and to agricultural financing; (iv) nutrition sensitisation and (v) complementary measures (including safety nets) to strengthen resilience of the population to crises and shocks.
- ✓ Two major food and nutrition security projects under the 10th EDF are still being implemented: ASARA in the South ("Amélioration de la Sécurité Alimentaire et Augmentation des Revenus Agricoles", EUR 40 million), and AINA ("Actions Intégrées en Nutrition et Alimentation", EUR 15.5 million) has just been finalized, except for the component in support to health centres and community stakeholders including ONN, and actions for the ONN improvement of food and nutrition targeting vulnerable groups (AINA-Nutrition, EUR 3 million).
- ✓ Actions under infrastructure include improving the mobility of populations, especially roads that play a key role in the regional economy and for access to social services.
- ✓ The PFON project ("Programme de Fortification Nutritionnelle pour les populations vulnérables à Madagascar", EUR 3.6 million) on-going since January 2017, aims to contribute to the sustainable development of the production, dissemination and promotion of local fortified foods for women and young children and to support the government to create a national legislative framework on food fortification particularly for vulnerable populations.

## Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base

- ✓ Ongoing support to improved monitoring and evaluation systems of two major food and nutrition security projects under the 10th EDF (ASARA and AINA-Nutrition). Strengthening the monitoring capacities of the government will continue to be a key area of EU support.
- ✓ The review of AINA project (ongoing in 2017) aims to take stock of achievements and lessons for improved design and implementation approaches by country partners. It is also expected to inform future funding of food and nutrition security interventions under the 11th EDF, an essential support to the government for achieving scale up actions with a high impact on chronic malnutrition.

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/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrition_globaltargets2025/en/)

3 Enquête Nationale sur le suivi des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement à Madagascar, INSTAT/ENSOMD 2012

4 Global Nutrition Report (GNR)