

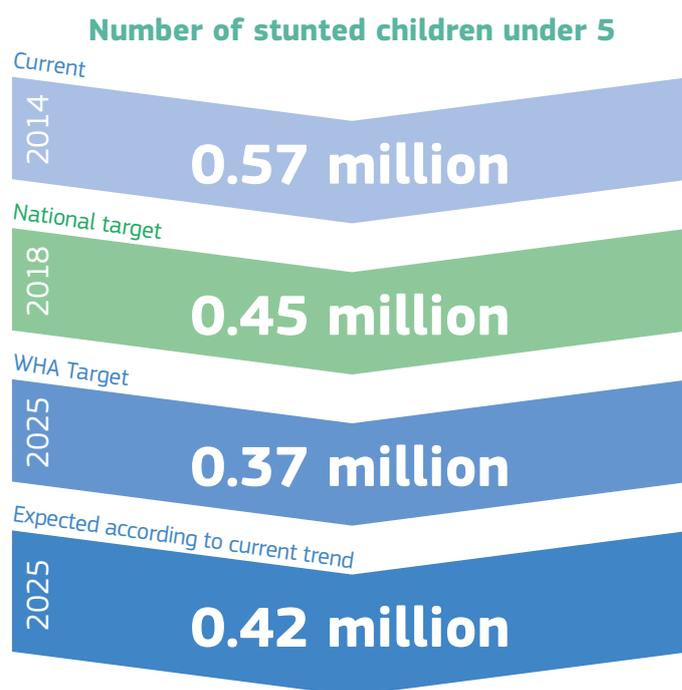
Country Profile on Nutrition

Cambodia

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. 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.

Despite important progress, with a prevalence rate of 32.4% stunting there is no room for complacency. Stunting inequalities are widening, the prevalence of wasting and anaemia remain high, the number of infants being exclusively breastfed is falling and a staggering 70% of children under two do not even receive a minimally adequate diet. The RCG is strongly committed to the eradication of undernutrition, joining the SUN movement in 2014, coupled with the launch of the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2014–2018). The Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) is mandated as the Government's policy advisory mechanism for agricultural and rural development, food security, nutrition and social protection. However, ongoing governance reforms (referred to as 'decentralization and deconcentration', or D&D) present

considerable implementation challenges with the capacity of local councils uneven and generally low. The EU in Cambodia has also embraced nutrition as a cross cutting priority, as evidenced by explicit attention to nutrition in two focal sectors – education and fisheries – with sector reform contracts (budget support) currently under preparation. In addition, via partnership with FAO through the FIRST (Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation) initiative, CARD will be supported to strengthen both national and sub-national capacities.



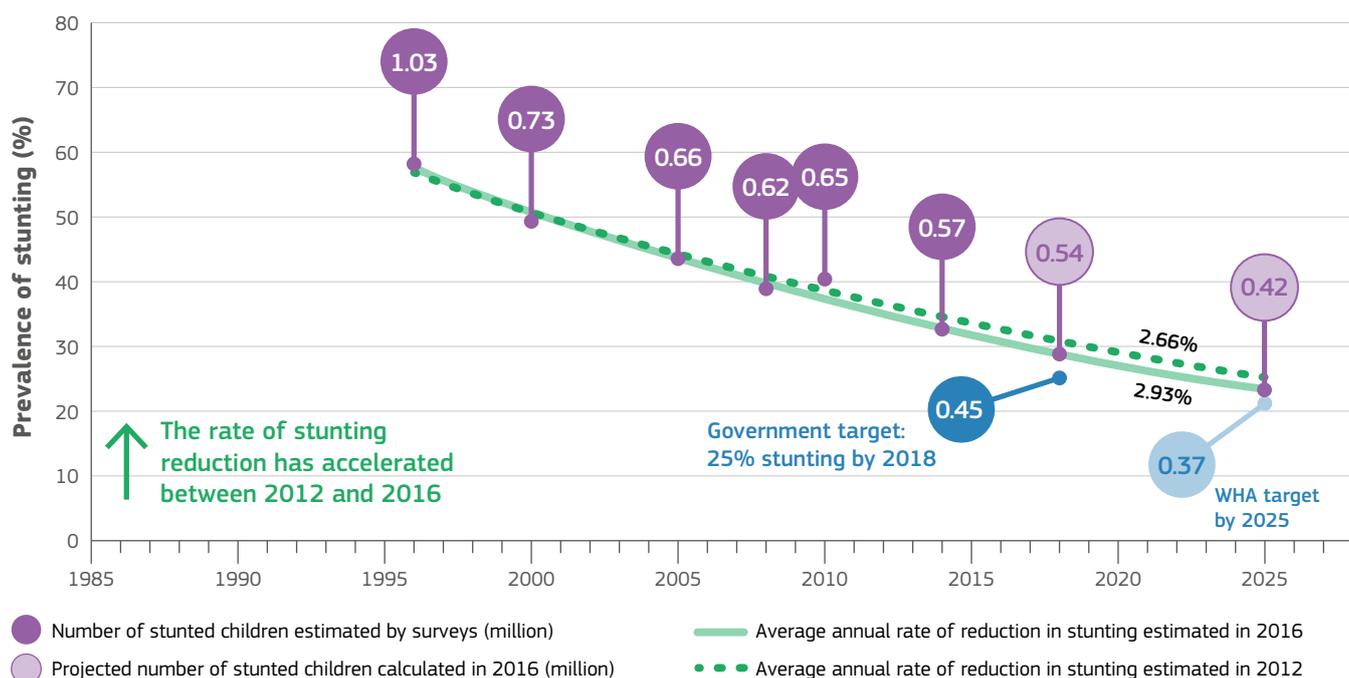
Progress against the World Health Assembly targets²

GNR 2016 ³ analysis of progress	WHA (and SDG) nutrition indicators
On course – Good progress	Stunting of children U5 years of age (SDG2)
Off course	Wasting of children U5 years of age (SDG2)
On course – At risk	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
32.4%	571 434	2014 ⁴
9.6%	169 314	2014 ⁴
2.0%	35 274	2014 ⁴
45.4%	3 774 213	2014 ⁴
8.2%	–	2010 ⁵
65.0%	–	2014 ⁴

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



Implications for development planners

Cambodia has experienced a strong decline in the prevalence of stunting since 1994, accompanied by an impressive decline in the number of children stunted. Recent projections anticipate that Cambodia could meet the government's own target to reduce stunting to 25% by 2018, as well as, potentially, the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025 (and, by extension, that of the principal indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2)). The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has accelerated from 2.66% in 2012 to 2.93% in 2016. If this is maintained, then 420,000 children are expected to be stunted in 2025. This is slightly over the WHA target. Consequently, additional efforts are required by the government and development partners to accelerate Cambodia's progress and secure the level of stunting reduction needed.

Nutrition governance

	Yes/No	Comment
Member of SUN Movement	Yes	Since 2014.
Government's commitment to nutrition (including N4G event)	Yes	High-level commitment to nutrition is evident from the increasing attention to nutrition across sectors, including WASH and social protection. However, opportunities exist to enhance ownership by Ministry of Economy and Finance and across other Ministries.
Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition	Yes	Upon joining the SUN Movement, the RCG launched the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2014–2018) including Joint Monitoring Indicators based on mutual accountability for results. National implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes is also underway.
Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination	Yes	In addition to the policy advisory mechanism provided by CARD, the Technical Working Group for Food Security and Nutrition meets regularly with various sub-groups to cover specific sectors.

EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

Data collected March 2017

The EU commitments to nutrition in Cambodia through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the DCI Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014–2020 for Cambodia nutrition is prioritised through both Natural Resource Management focal sector and the Education focal sector. The MIP allocations to these sectors are, respectively, EUR 144 million and EUR 140 million. By the end of 2016, a total of EUR 70 million⁶ is committed under both sectors of which EUR 7.5 million⁷ is for nutrition ([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.

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

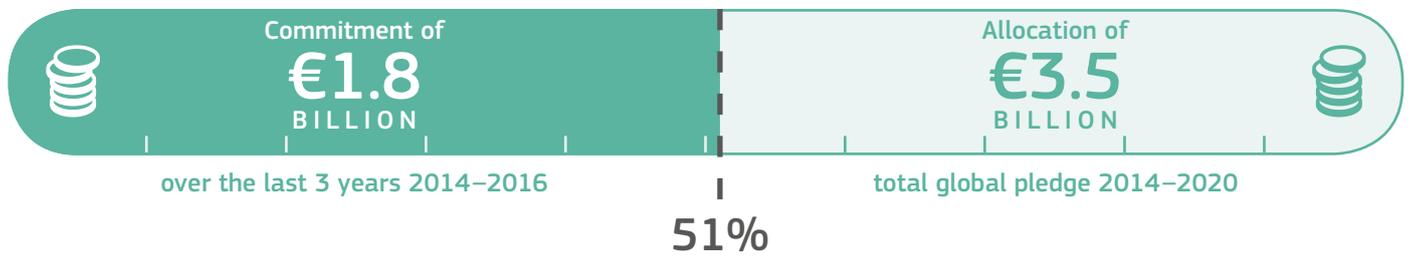


Figure 1

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

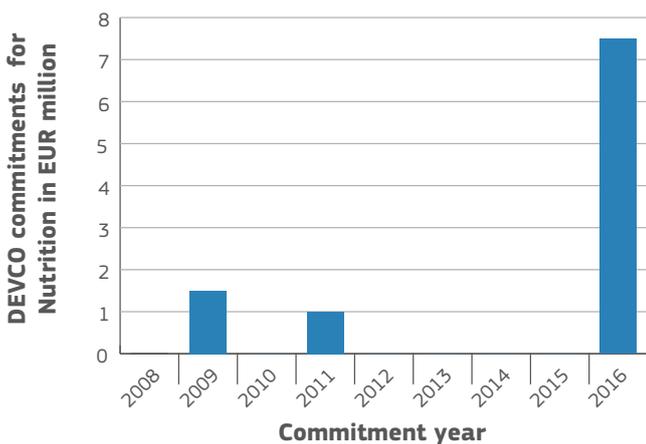
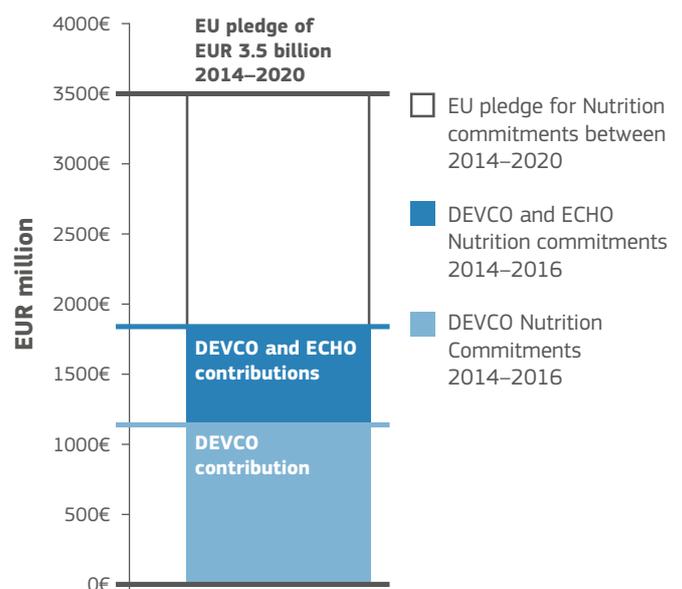


Figure 2

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

MIP Focal sector(s) for nutrition 2014–2020

- Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Education and Skills Development

Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition

- ✓ European Development Partners working in Cambodia have adopted a joint EU Development Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia, highlighting the fact that Cambodia's nutrition indicators are of concern and underscoring the requirement for a multi-sectoral approach, implying effective inter-ministerial cooperation.

Following a recent progress review of the European joint programme in Cambodia, the joint strategy results matrix was updated with a specific food security and nutrition indicator taken from the adopted joint monitoring indicators (JMI) agreed between development partners and the Government through the Technical Working group chaired on the Government side by CARD. The specific output chosen was: Food Security & Nutrition] National Food Security and Nutrition goals, strategies and plans are implemented in a multi-sectoral, coordinated and collaborative manner in accordance with current and emerging priorities. The corresponding output indicator was: Activate multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at sub-national level in at least 9 provinces in order to improve implementation of national strategy for food security and nutrition. (Source: JMI)
- ✓ This agreement helps to focus the European partners (DE, BE, CH, CZ, FR, IE) efforts on directly supporting the implementation of the national strategy for food security and nutrition.
- ✓ The EU MIP explicitly recognises nutrition as a core cross cutting issue, to be given attention in two focal sectors, along with gender equality and empowerment of women. With the Government's budgetary commitment to agriculture remaining highly donor dependent, EU partners seek to address this.
- ✓ A 2016 review by the EU Nutrition Advisory Service identified that while both the Government's Education Strategic Plan and Strategic Policy Framework for Fisheries (SPF) makes clear the commitment of the sectors to address nutrition, considerable opportunities exist to strengthen this connection and increase the clarity and consistency of stakeholder commitment.
- ✓ In the context of D&D, building a high level of commitment to nutrition at sub-national level presents both challenges and opportunities.

Scaling-up actions

- ✓ In the Fisheries sub-sector, the EU is financing actions up to EUR 144 million to support both capture fish and aquaculture initiatives harnessing an approach that seeks to optimize nutrition impact, especially on the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society.
- ✓ Through an Education Sector Reform Contract, budget support will include a focus on early childhood education and primary levels. Opportunities to strengthen nutrition impact will be emphasised, for example through supporting the quality standards for early childhood education and ensuring a minimum standard of WASH provision as set out in national policy commitments.

Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base

- ✓ The EU's approach presents a model for Development Partners regarding the reorientation of assistance from service delivery to a more strategic and capacity strengthening model of assistance.
- ✓ FIRST is an FAO and EU partnership programme with the purpose of providing a policy assistance mechanism for improved food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture. In Cambodia, the FIRST initiative is supporting the Government (CARD) to strategically review mid-term the NFSNS as well as playing a key role in strengthening the expertise and ownership of respective line ministries and facilitating more effective articulation of the strategy with sectoral annual planning and budgeting processes.
- ✓ In both the Fisheries sub-sector and the Education sector, where the sector reform contract is complemented by capacity development through a pooled through a multi-donor fund (CDPF) administered by UNICEF; emphasis is being placed on integrating nutrition sensitive actions into the respective road maps for technical support.

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 There are differences in the GNR 2016 and the EU 2017 analysis of progress in achieving the WHA target for stunting; this is because the EU draws upon data over a more extended period (as illustrated in the graphic).

4 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014

5 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2010

6 EUR 30 million from FNSSA sector and EUR 40 million from Education sector as addendums to decision 19–017 in 2007 and 24–406 in 2013

7 CRIS number: 38–851 – focal sector: FNSSA – EU contribution amount: EUR 30 million – nutrition score: partial – nutrition amount: EUR 7.5 million