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.

Ethiopia has made good progress in reducing stunting amongst young children, starting from very high levels in the 1990s. It has now set itself the target of reducing the prevalence of stunting to 26% by 2020. This is more ambitious than the target of the WHA/SDGs. However, the prevalence of stunting is still above 38%, affecting more than 6 million children. Ethiopia has the 7th highest number of stunted children in the world, and undernutrition is a principal cause of child mortality. Without concerted efforts to tackle undernutrition, even the WHA/SDG target will not be met. Such efforts are essential as undernutrition is not just a human development issue; in Ethiopia, it is estimated to cost the economy more than 16% of GDP every year. Uniquely, the EU in Ethiopia has joined forces with other Member States to initiate a joint strategy on nutrition in support of the Government of Ethiopia’s National Nutrition Programme. This EU+ group is also engaged with the Government to ensure that key social and agriculture flagship programmes are nutrition-sensitive. This focus on human and social development (people) through stronger and more effective partnership embodies the new European Consensus on Development.

### Progress against the World Health Assembly targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GNR 2016 analysis of progress</th>
<th>WHA (and SDG) nutrition indicators</th>
<th>Data last referenced by EU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off course - Some progress</td>
<td>Stunting of children US years of age (SDG2)</td>
<td>Prevalence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off course</td>
<td>Wasting of children US years of age (SDG2)</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On course - At risk</td>
<td>Overweight of children US years of age</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently off course</td>
<td>Anaemia of women of reproductive age</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Low birth weight</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off course – Some progress</td>
<td>Exclusive breastfeeding of infants U6 months</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>58.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implications for development planners

Ethiopia has experienced a strong decline in the prevalence of stunting since 1990, but only a nominal decline in the number of children stunted due to population growth. Recent projections anticipate that Ethiopia will neither meet the government’s own target by 2020, nor the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has marginally accelerated from 2.17% in 2012 to 2.31% in 2016; if this is maintained, then over 5 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025. This is well over 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 change Ethiopia’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>Ethiopia was one of the first countries to join the SUN Movement in 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government’s commitment to nutrition (including N4G event)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Since the N4G event, Ethiopia has reset its commitment to reduce stunting of children under-five to 26% by 2020 (NNPII 2015-2020). Ethiopia’s Seqota Declaration 2015 commits to ending stunting of children under-two by 2030.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) launched in 2008 and operationalised through the National Nutrition Programme (NNP) 2013-15 and the current NNPII 2016-20 which is fully costed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB) together with the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) as well as the Regional Nutrition Coordination bodies constitute the mechanism for leadership, policy decisions and coordination of the NNP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

Data collected March 2017

The EU commitments to nutrition in Ethiopia through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020 for Ethiopia nutrition is prioritised through the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) focal sector and the health focal sector. The NIP allocation is EUR 252.4 million for FNSSA focal sector and EUR 200 million for health focal sector. By the end of 2016, a total of EUR 260 million is committed under both sectors of which EUR 23.75 million5 is for nutrition plus EUR 3.5 million6 from National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) and EUR 1.5 million7 from an emergency programme (as per the SUN methodology). Additional nutrition sensitive commitments are identified under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa but are not yet officially reported.

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
- Sustainable Agriculture / Food Security
- Health

Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition

- The EU and Member States support the National Nutrition Programme (NNP) of Ethiopia through support to community-based nutrition programmes through the health sector; there is also increasing support to nutrition-sensitive sectors: in agriculture, the EU and some Member States have supported the development of a National Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Strategy and increasingly agriculture projects of Member States have become nutrition-sensitive; also in WASH, the EU and Member States are working towards advocacy for nutrition mainstreaming.

- Inclusion of nutrition objectives and outcomes in agriculture, food security, health and social protection policies and programmes (including the Agriculture Growth Plan (AGP) and the Productive Safety Net Programme (PNSP) through both technical and policy dialogue.

- Support to the Rural Economic Development & Food Security (RED&FS) sector to: (i) mainstream nutrition into sector strategies and programmes (agriculture, livestock, food security, natural resource management etc.) and (ii) enable the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake assessments, analysis, planning, management, monitoring and evaluation in relation to nutrition among others.

- Work towards the implementation of a coherent, coordinated EU+ (EU, Member States, Norway) joint strategy for nutrition within the framework of the new NNP 2016-2020 (NNPII) and the vision of partnership through the new EU Consensus on Development.

Scaling-up actions

- Strengthen human and institutional capacity for effective delivery of services relevant to nutrition through:
  - capacity building of federal authorities, local authorities, extension workers, and implementing partners; and
  - sharing best practices and lessons learned from nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes and projects.

- Implementation of nutrition-specific actions in the health sector and nutrition-sensitive interventions through the agricultural and food security sector and enhancement of participatory sustainable natural resources, conservation and land management.

- Interventions on water and sanitation ensuring the quality and safety of water supply for the public through NGO projects focusing on resilience.

Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base

- Support research to measure the links between stunting reductions and nutrition investments.

- Reinforce the monitoring and evaluation and information systems of the RED&FS and health sector to include nutrition relevant information and indicators through horizontal sector support.

- Strengthen Health Management Information System (HMIS) to capture the relevant nutrition indicators.

- Support the establishment of a National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN).

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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.
3. Ethiopia demographic and health survey 2016, key indicators