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 purpose¹. 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.

In Haiti, more than one in five children under the age of five is stunted. There are stark wealth and geographical disparities in the prevalence of stunting (it is five times higher amongst the 20% poorest households than the 20% richest, and it is highest in South East and Centre departments). High exposure to natural disasters, environmental degradation, widespread food insecurity and poor access to sanitation facilities are also key features contributing to a high disease burden, insufficient access to nutritious food and, ultimately, childhood stunting. Besides stunting, anaemia is a serious public health problem with half of the women of reproductive age affected. National policies and strategic frameworks are in place to guide actions. The Ministry of Health is playing a key role. Yet, important challenges remain such as mobilising funding for nutrition from domestic resources, scaling up of actions and greater implementation of the frameworks as well as further mobilisation of other sectors such as agriculture and food security. The EU, through its Food and Nutrition Security sector in particular, is well placed to support the government for multi-sectoral coordination, mobilisation of food and agriculture actors and the scale up of nutrition-sensitive actions.

### Progress against the World Health Assembly targets²

<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 U5 years of age (SDG2)</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>274,437</td>
<td>2012³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off course</td>
<td>Wasting of children U5 years of age (SDG2)</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>65,163</td>
<td>2012³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On course - At risk</td>
<td>Overweight of children U5 years of age</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>45,113</td>
<td>2012³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently off course</td>
<td>Anaemia of women of reproductive age</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>1,942,488</td>
<td>2011⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Low birth weight</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2012⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off course – No progress</td>
<td>Exclusive breastfeeding of infants U6 months</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2012⁴</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Data last referenced by EU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

² World Health Assembly targets ³ Data last referenced by EU
Trend, projection and targets in the prevalence and number of children (under-five) stunted

Implications for development planners

Haiti has experienced a strong decline in the prevalence of stunting since the 1990, accompanied by a significant decline (nearly half) in the number of children stunted. Recent projections anticipate that Haiti will neither meet the government’s own target by 2022, nor the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025. The rate of stunting reduction is at 2.53%; if this is maintained, then about 200,000 children are expected to be stunted in 2025 which is slightly over the WHA target. Consequently, additional efforts are required by the government and development partners to change Haiti’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 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government’s commitment to nutrition (including N4G event)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Haiti has set its commitment to reduce stunting of children under-five to 15% by 2022 (National Guiding Health Plan 2012-2022).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Haiti has a National Nutrition Policy (adopted in 2012) and a Nutrition Strategic Plan for the 2013-2018 period (adopted in 2013); however national funding for nutrition remains an issue. A new national food and nutritional security plan which will run until 2025 is being drafted under the leadership of the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Multi-sector coordination occurred under the Aba Grangou framework, which is presently obsolete as the presidential decree establishing it has come to an end. It is hoped that the Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health will revive a coordination mechanism (besides technical-level coordination).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

*Data collected March 2017*

The EU commitments to nutrition in Haiti through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020 for Haiti nutrition is prioritised through the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) focal sector to which EUR 100 million have been allocated. By the end of 2016, a total of EUR 40 million is committed under FNSSA sector of which EUR 10 million is for nutrition plus EUR 7.2 million from thematic and emergency programmes (*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 and nutrition security
- Education

**Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition**

- Support to the update, adoption and implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Security Plan.
- Advocate jointly with other donors and partners active in nutrition for greater resource mobilisation and political commitment for the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition.
- EU is currently considering taking on the role of SUN donor co-convenor in Haiti.

**Scaling-up actions**

- Up until now, the EU has been financially supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MSPP) to address nutrition in several ways (staff salaries in the Nutrition Department and in departmental divisions, incentives for community health workers through projects as well as funding for activities including workshops to join the SUN Movement, organizational assessment of departmental divisions, support to workshops on stunting, etc.). Starting from 2018, under the 11th EDF NIP for Haiti 2014-2020, the MSPP will be at the centre of EU’s Food and Nutrition Security action. In particular, a total of EUR 7 million has been allocated for basic health services with an emphasis on fighting undernutrition among vulnerable populations in the departments of Nord-Ouest and Haut-Artibonite. In addition to that, a EUR 10 million technical assistance support to MSPP, together with the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Affairs, will aim to strengthen both strategic and programming capacities in these relevant sectors at both national and departmental levels for the coordination, management, implementation and monitoring of sectoral strategies relevant to nutrition and food security.
- Increased access to quality food of the most vulnerable inhabitants in rural and urban areas - the following activities will be considered: (a) Strengthening of safety nets; (b) Promotion of local purchase for school feeding; (c) Nutrition. sensitisation/education; (d) Promotion of income generation activities.
- The contribution of other sectors like education and agriculture will be sought. Nutrition for example could be factored in to basic education and teachers’ training components.

**Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base**

- Improve food security information and facilitate access to it.
- Funding through ECHO for an anthropometric survey (SMART) carried out in May/June 2016. The provisional report provides updated nutritional data on children under-five and is yet to be validated by government.

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