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.

The prevalence of stunting amongst under-five (US) Rwandese children remains one of the highest in Africa - despite investment in health, education, improved sanitation and significant reductions in under-five mortality rates since 2000. The age group worst affected are children 6-18 months old with highest rates in the north and west of the country. Nutrition is currently high on the national development agenda with a commitment to reduce child stunting in line with the World Health Assembly (WHA) global target. This commitment is well articulated in key development strategies. Moreover, the Social Cluster Ministries are taking a more active sectoral and multi-sectoral role in the country’s efforts to eliminate undernutrition. Such efforts are essential, and must be stepped up to ensure that targets are met. In 2014, undernutrition was estimated to cost the Rwandese economy the equivalent of 11.5% of GDP every year. The EU in Rwanda has firmly embraced nutrition as a cross cutting priority, as evidenced by a strategic focus on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security and the provision of budget support to help implement the National Strategy to Eliminate Malnutrition. The EU has integrated nutrition security into its budget support programme for the focal area on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, financed through the 11th European Development Fund.

### 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>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>37.9%</td>
<td>642 360</td>
<td>2015³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On course</td>
<td>Wasting of children US years of age (SDG2)</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>37 287</td>
<td>2015³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off course - No progress</td>
<td>Overweight of children US years of age</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>130 506</td>
<td>2015³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently off course</td>
<td>Anaemia of women of reproductive age</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>889 939</td>
<td>2011⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Low birth weight</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2010⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On course</td>
<td>Exclusive breastfeeding of infants U6 months</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2014⁴</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Data last referenced by EU

- Prevalence: 0.64 million
- National target: 0.52 million
- WHA Target: 0.62 million

- Current: 0.64 million
- Expected according to current trend: 0.62 million
Trend, projection and targets in the prevalence and number of children (under-five) stunted

The rate of stunting reduction has accelerated between 2012 and 2016

Implications for development planners

Rwanda has experienced an important decline in the prevalence of stunting since the 1990s, but only a nominal decline in the number of children stunted due to population growth. Recent projections anticipate that Rwanda will not meet the 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 0.80% in 2012 to 1.25% in 2016; if this is maintained, then about 620,000 children are expected to be stunted in 2025 which is well over the WHA target. Consequently, additional efforts are required by the government and development partners to change Rwanda’s course and secure the level of stunting reduction needed.

Nutrition governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of SUN Movement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government’s commitment to nutrition (including N4G event)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

Data collected March 2017

The EU commitments to nutrition in Rwanda through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020 for Rwanda nutrition is prioritised through the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) focal sector to which EUR 200 million have been allocated. By the end of 2016, a total of EUR 200 million is committed under FNSSA sector of which EUR 50 million\(^5\) 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.

![Figure 1: DEVCO Nutrition commitments in Rwanda (In EUR million) 2008-2016](image1)

![Figure 2: Progress against the EU’s financial pledge to reduce stunting 2014-2020](image2)
Support of the EU and Member States

NIP Focal sector(s) for nutrition 2014–2020
- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition

☑ Participation in Rwanda’s Nutrition Technical Working Group (since July 2013).
☑ Co-chairmanship of the Agriculture Sector Working Group (since October 2013).
☑ Regular multi-stakeholder dialogue to overview and steer the Sector Reform Contract (SRC) to support the implementation of Rwanda’s multi-sectoral NFNS.

☑ Support to the establishment of a web-based Nutrition Dashboard to track progress against the NFNSP.
☑ Support to the establishment and operationalisation of the National Food and Nutrition Secretariat (NFNS) in Rwanda.

Scaling-up actions

☑ Multi-sectoral SRC to enhance the agriculture sector’s sustainable use of land, water resources, value creation and contribution to nutrition security. This major intervention (91% of which is budget support) will:
  - promote nutrition-sensitive social protection schemes;
  - promote investments in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and
  - improve monitoring of stunting (11th EDF).

☑ Establishment of model nutrition gardens in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, vocational training centres (10th EDF).

Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base

☑ Technical Assistance (consulting services) as complementary measure to the above mentioned Multi-sectoral SRC focusing on nutrition security during the 1000 days period (11th EDF).

☑ Advocacy and follow up with the NFNS to apply for a technical assistance in the National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NiPN) with a view to strengthen capacity building and Monitoring and Evaluation Systems of the Secretariat.

☑ Integration of school nutrition gardening as a learning tool (as opposed to production objectives) in the curriculum and pre-service training for primary and secondary schools and vocational training centres.

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/
4 Global Nutrition Report (GNR)