

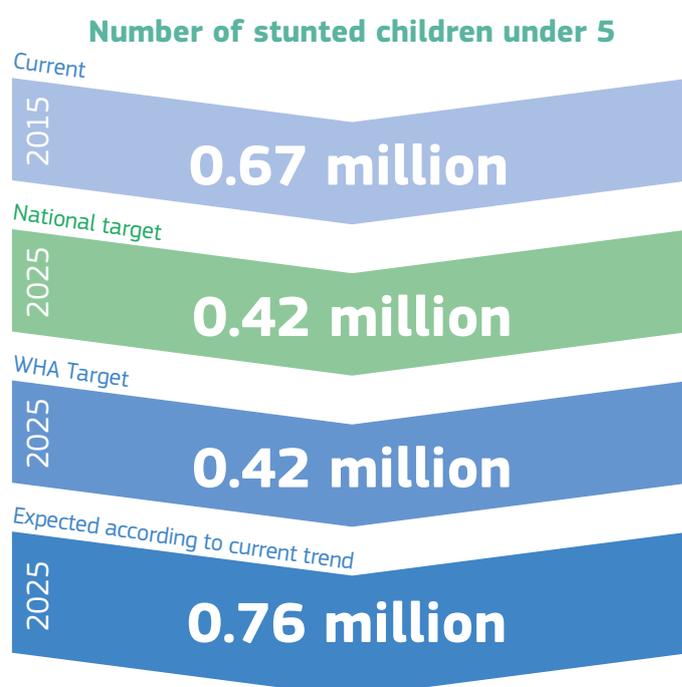
Country Profile on Nutrition

Zimbabwe

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.

One in four children in Zimbabwe is stunted. Anaemia is also serious, affecting one in two children (6 to 59 months) and nearly one in three women. Applying global estimates, undernutrition is likely contributing to 12,000 child deaths in the country per year. Areas categorised as “food secure” have the highest prevalence rates for stunting, so until recently, insufficient attention was paid to undernutrition. Now, Zimbabwe has an enlightened multi-sectoral policy framework for food and nutrition security and an active Food & Nutrition Council (FNC). Through appropriate partnerships, the EU is focusing on: multiple community-led nutrition interventions; supporting the role of agriculture (a sector with most potential

for economic growth) in achieving better maternal and child nutrition; a multi-sectoral national information system on food and nutrition security as well as building national evidence for policy and programming; and contributing to nutrition governance as the SUN donor convenor in Zimbabwe.



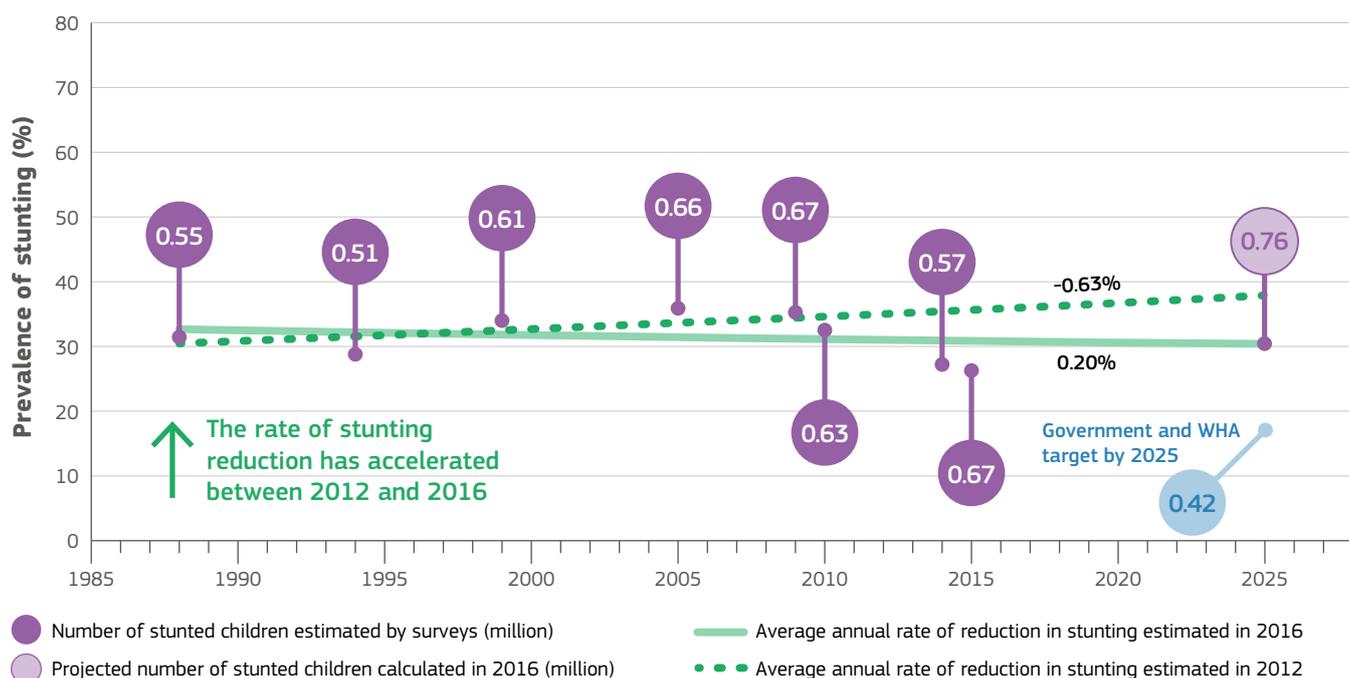
Progress against the World Health Assembly targets²

| GNR 2016 analysis of progress | WHA (and SDG) nutrition indicators |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Off course - Some progress | Stunting of children U5 years of age (SDG2) |
| On course | Wasting of children U5 years of age (SDG2) |
| On course - Good progress | Overweight of children U5 years of age |
| Currently off course | Anaemia of women of reproductive age |
| NA | Low birth weight |
| On course | Exclusive breastfeeding of infants U6 months |

Data last referenced by EU

| Prevalence | Number | Year |
|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 26.8% | 671 255 | 2015 ³ |
| 3.2% | 80 150 | 2015 ³ |
| 5.6% | 140 262 | 2015 ³ |
| 26.8% | 2 105 354 | 2015 ³ |
| 11.0% | – | 2010 ⁴ |
| 48.0% | – | 2015 ³ |

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



Implications for development planners

The prevalence of stunting in Zimbabwe has been erratic since the mid-1980s. There has been a marginal decline over recent years, but the numbers of children stunted have increased due to high population growth. The latest projections anticipate that Zimbabwe will not meet the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025 (which also represents the government’s target). The rate in the decline of the number of children stunted has accelerated from -0.63% in 2012 to 0.20% in 2016; even if this is maintained, 0.76 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025. This is still well in excess of 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 Zimbabwe’s course and secure the level of stunting reduction needed.

Nutrition governance

| | Yes/No | Comment |
|--|--------|---|
| Member of SUN Movement | Yes | Since 2011. EU is currently SUN donor convenor. |
| Government’s commitment to nutrition (including N4G event) | Yes | The Government of Zimbabwe has aligned its commitment to stunting to the WHA target of a 40% reduction by 2025. |
| Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition | Yes | The National Food & Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) and a costed Implementation Plan were launched in May 2013. A National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) 2014-2018 was launched in April 2015. |
| Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination | Yes | The inter-ministerial Food & Nutrition Security Council is long-standing, but was re-activated in 2010, and supported by a Food & Nutrition Security Advisory Group (including development partners). The Food & Nutrition Council (FNC) ensures a coordinated response to food and nutrition insecurity across Zimbabwe. |

EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

Data collected March 2017

The EU commitments to nutrition in Zimbabwe through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020 for Zimbabwe 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 88 million for FNSSA focal sector and EUR 88 million for health focal sector. By the end of 2016, a total of EUR 147 million is committed under both sectors of which EUR 23.8 million⁵ 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:

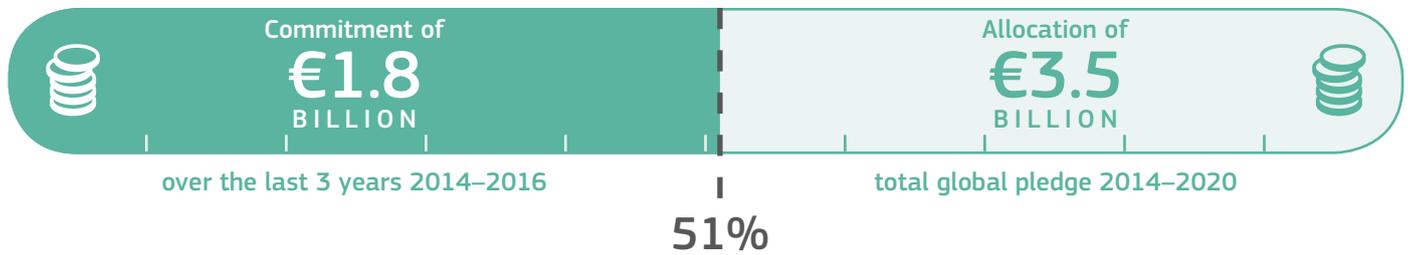


Figure 1

DEVCO Nutrition commitments in Zimbabwe (In EUR million) 2008-2016

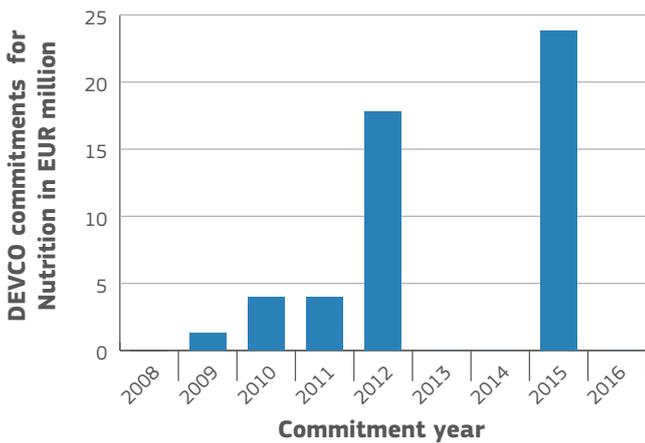
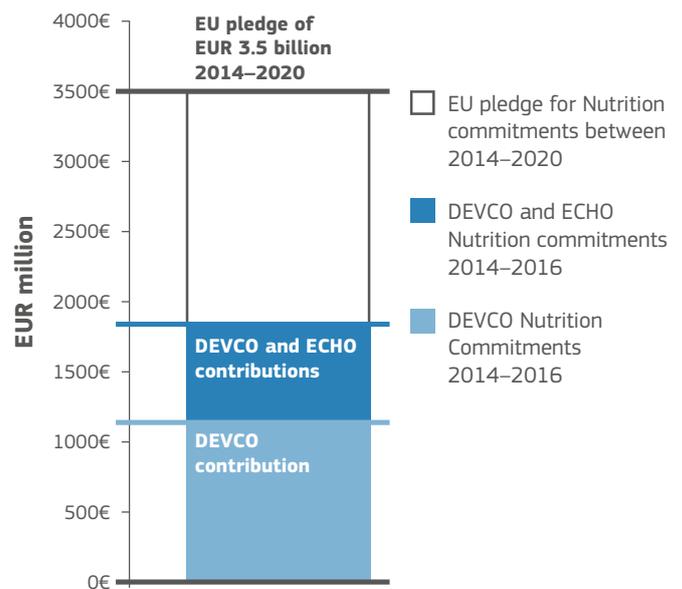


Figure 2

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

- Agriculture-based economic development
- Health

Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition

- ✓ As the SUN donor convenor, the EU contributes to the mobilisation of resources to support the SUN Roadmap for Nutrition in Zimbabwe and facilitates sharing of information on nutrition with other donors;
- ✓ Provides technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation & Irrigation Development (MAMID) to strengthen capacity to mainstream nutrition in research, planning, policy development, M&E and extension services;
- ✓ Contributes to the Health Development Partners' Coordination Group, the CCM (Global Fund) and the Health Development Fund in support of the National Health Strategy 2016–2020 and guided by the Health Financing Policy which will lead (end of 2017) to a new Health Financing Strategy, currently under development.

Scaling-up actions

- ✓ Supports the implementation of the FNSP and the NNS 2014–2018
- ✓ Develop and disseminate Nation Food-based Dietary Guidelines and Food Composition Table
- ✓ Provides support to food and nutrition security committees at the decentralised level with particular reference to planning, information and analysis
- ✓ Contributes to the pooled Health Development Fund that focuses on strengthening health systems and reducing child and maternal mortality as well as the prevalence of communicable diseases
- ✓ Supports accelerated community actions for reducing stunting in districts most affected by chronic food and nutrition insecurity
- ✓ Support to:
 - early detection and treatment of undernutrition;
 - therapeutic feeding for cases of severe acute malnutrition;
 - promotion of breastfeeding;
 - control of parasitic diseases;
 - vitamin A and ferrous-sulphate supplementation; and
 - immunisation through the health sector
- ✓ Established the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Funding Mechanism, with the objective to increase household resilience to cope with future shocks by promoting diversified livelihood initiatives
- ✓ Promotes different value chains that enhance the incomes of smallholder families (especially women), contribute to better food and nutrition security and boost the agricultural economy of Zimbabwe

Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base

- ✓ Support context-specific research on causes of stunting in Zimbabwe including environmental enteric dysfunction (EED), mycotoxin contamination and post-harvest practices
- ✓ Appraise and strengthen information systems that contribute to a better understanding of food and nutrition security in Zimbabwe
- ✓ Support the development of training materials (through UNICEF and FAO) and the training of nutrition staff

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 Zimbabwe demographic and health survey 2015, final report. Rockville, Maryland: ZIMSTAT and ICF International Inc.

4 Global Nutrition Report (GNR)

5 CRIS number: 27-282 – focal sector: FNSSA – EU contribution amount: EUR 13 million – nutrition score: partial – nutrition amount: EUR 3.25 million.

CRIS number: 38-193 – focal sector FNSSA – EU contribution amount: EUR 15 million – nutrition score: partial – nutrition amount: EUR 3.75 million.

CRIS number: 31-013 – focal sector Health – EU contribution amount: EUR 12.35 million – nutrition score: partial – nutrition amount: EUR 3.09 million.

CRIS number: 38-192 – focal sector Health – EU contribution amount: EUR 55 million – nutrition score: partial – nutrition amount: EUR 13.75 million.