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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

**Seventh Progress Report on the Commission's Action Plan on Nutrition
April 2021 – March 2022**

Table of Contents

Acronyms	2
Key Messages	3
Section 1. Introduction	4
Reflections on a year of achievements and challenges	4
Highlights from the International Year of Nutrition	5
Scope of the 7 th Progress Report	7
Section 2. Progress in supporting partner countries to reduce the number of children stunted	9
Stunting trends – Africa in focus	10
Success stories in Africa	12
Progression of all forms of malnutrition	13
Section 3. Progress in ensuring the allocation of EUR 3.5 billion to improve nutrition ..	14
Financial commitments to nutrition in 2020	14
Financial commitments to nutrition 2014-2020	14
Nutrition disbursements, 2014-2020	15
Geographical distribution of development cooperation nutrition commitments	16
Budget support for nutrition	17
Partnerships for nutrition	18
Nutrition resource tracking going forward	19
Section 4: Healthy and sustainable diets for all	20
Why healthy and sustainable diets matter for nutrition	20
Evidence on what works best and insights to carry forward	22
Latest Developments	24
Section 5: Conclusions	27
Nutrition dealt yet another blow	27
Programming for progress	29
Annex 1: Country dashboard of nutrition-relevant indicators	31
Annex 2: Case Studies	34
Annex 3: Examples of how nutrition feature in the EU Multiannual Country Programmes (MIPs): Liberia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Nicaragua	51
Examples of new country-level actions for nutrition (2021 commitments with a Nutrition Policy Marker): Chad, DRC, Yemen, Haiti and SUN 3.0	53
Annex 4: EU INTPA engagement in 8 global coalitions relevant for the advancement of healthy and sustainable diets for improved nutrition	55

Acronyms

CFS	Committee on World Food Security
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DGs	Directorate-Generals
DQQ	Diet Quality Questionnaire
EBF	Exclusive breastfeeding
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FNSIS	Food and Nutrition Security Information System
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GRFC	Global Report on Food Crises
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
N4G	Nutrition for Growth
MAD	Minimum acceptable diet
MIP	Multi-annual indicative programme
NCD	Non-communicable disease
NDICI	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SAM	Severe acute malnutrition
SRCT	Stunting Reduction Calculations Tool
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TEI	Team Europe Initiative
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization

Key Messages

With the new programming cycle for 2021-2027 now under implementation, the seventh progress report provides an opportunity for closure with respect to the EU's ambitious 2013 pledge to allocate EUR 3.5 billion to nutrition between 2014 and 2020. The annual resource tracking exercise presented here confirms that by 2020 the EU had committed over EUR 4.3 billion for nutrition, EUR 835 million more than was originally pledged. Of this amount EUR 2.8 billion went to development and EUR 1.5 billion to humanitarian assistance. Nutrition-related budget support actions represented around EUR 516 million.

Building on this success and in order to sustain the momentum, in December 2021, at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in Tokyo, and for the period 2021-2024, the EU pledged to commit a further EUR 2.5 billion, at least, for international assistance with a nutrition objective (EUR 1.4 billion for development and EUR 1.1 billion for humanitarian assistance). Such continuity is vital to ensure the acceleration of efforts to make progress with respect to the EU's core pledge to support efforts to reduce the number of stunted children under the age of five by at least 7 million by 2025. Last year it was reported that the proportion of children suffering from stunting had fallen by an average of 6.2 percentage points across the 42 countries for which the EU has prioritised development investment in nutrition. This year, however, reporting on stunting reduction progress takes place against a challenging backdrop due to the lack of available and up-to-date data for all forms of malnutrition. As a result of COVID-19-related issues, new data since 2019 is only available for 2 out of 42 countries.

Nevertheless, modelled data suggests that the pandemic, through its disruption of societies, markets and livelihoods, is aggravating the malnutrition-poverty nexus. Alarmingly, stunting progress is expected to slow and may even be worsening in many low- and middle-income countries. Added to this, ongoing conflict and instability around the world, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, is undermining the supply and availability of food and agricultural inputs and driving up global food prices. This further undermines people's ability to afford a healthy diet and improve their nutritional status. The UN Secretary General has already warned that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine could lead to a 'hurricane of hunger and a meltdown of the global food system'.¹ At the same time, the mounting climate and ecological crises constitute a far-reaching threat to the prospects of ensuring that everyone on the planet is able to access the healthy and sustainable diet required for good nutrition. The series of back-to-back global summits held in 2021 – on food systems, biodiversity, climate change and nutrition – collectively delivered a heightened awareness of the urgent need for transformative change.

This report offers rich insights into how ongoing EU actions are striving to catalyse such transformation on the ground. Through stories of change told through case studies of programmes currently supporting partner countries, the call to make diets work for both people and planet is being translated into measurable impacts on real lives. These programmes illustrate how crucial opportunities for collaboration, innovation and experience sharing around country-led policy options and tailored solutions can be continually created. Aligned with the principle of a rights-based approach, there is a determined focus on strengthening the agency of the most disadvantaged groups, while redoubling efforts to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Looking ahead, and fortified by the ground-breaking EU Farm to Fork strategy, a review of new adopted country level multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs) indicates that a growing number feature nutrition under at least one priority area. At the global level, direct EU engagement in 8 Coalitions for Action emerging from the UN Food Systems Summit, together with sustained support to the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, further testifies to the EU's unceasing leadership role in accelerating transformative efforts to ensure healthy and sustainable diets for all and the eradication of malnutrition in all its forms.

¹ UNSG, 14 March 2022 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/node/262376>

Section 1. Introduction

Reflections on a year of achievements and challenges

Recent efforts to eradicate malnutrition have seen important achievements. Most notably since 2000 the number of stunted children has reduced by 54 million – a 22% global decline². As highlighted in the previous progress report, and with financial commitments far surpassing those originally pledged by the European Union, child stunting has fallen by an average of around 6 percentage points in partner countries that prioritised nutrition in their cooperation programme with the EU³. Guided by the EU Action Plan on Nutrition (2015-2025), the EU has demonstrated a global leadership role with respect to a steadfast focus on a rights-based, multi-sectoral, country-led and locally driven approach to tackling malnutrition. Robust programmatic evidence confirms that effective action is delivering results for improved quality of diets and nutrition. The approach is now reinforced by the EU-supported Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition endorsed in 2021 by the Committee on World Food Security⁴.

However, the backdrop to the impressive achievements outlined above is a stark reminder of the global challenges that lie ahead. Already before COVID-19, with hunger on the rise since 2015, more than 3 billion people were unable to afford healthy diets required for good nutrition and at least two out of every three young children in the world were not being fed the minimum diet they need to grow, develop and learn to their full potential. The disruption to societies, markets and livelihoods triggered by the pandemic has further exacerbated and exposed existing disparities and the impact is expected to continue through 2022. As a result of measures taken to contain the pandemic and the post-pandemic economic downturn, an additional 267 million people are now expected to be unable to afford a healthy diet⁵. This will greatly aggravate undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies as well as obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases⁶. The prevalence of both moderate and severe food insecurity measured by the EU-supported Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), while gradually on the rise since 2014, increased dramatically from 26.6% in 2019 to 30.4% in 2020⁷. An additional consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic is the absence of new data on dietary quality and nutrition, as it has generally not been possible to conduct routine national nutrition surveys due to measures such as social distancing, lockdowns and self-isolation⁸. Therefore, despite an anticipated worsening of the situation, the evidence-base needed to inform a better understanding of the global context remains unavailable.

Moreover, conflict situations, most recently Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, have caused significant market disruptions, whether at country or international level⁹. The United Nations Secretary-General has warned that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine could lead to a 'hurricane of hunger and a meltdown of the global food system'¹⁰, while World Food

² From 203 million in 2000 to 149 million in 2020 (UNICEF/WHO/WB Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates 2021 Edition).

³ In the period 2012-2021.

⁴ The VGFSyN present a comprehensive, systemic and science and evidence-based approach to achieving healthy diets through sustainable food systems. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ne982en/>

⁵ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587\(21\)00123-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587(21)00123-6/fulltext)

⁶ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00323-8>

⁷ FAO (2021). State of Food Security and Nutrition.

⁸ This is explored in more detail in Section 2.

⁹ For instance, humanitarian assessments in Tigray province of Ethiopia underscore the tragic impact of conflict on food insecurity and nutrition status. <https://www.wfp.org/news/severe-hunger-tightens-grip-northern-ethiopia>. With regard to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the UN Secretary-General has issued warnings about the large-scale knock-on effects in terms of grain, fuel and fertiliser prices rising and supply chain disruption. (14/03/22 UN SG Security Council address, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kLoX4sTSZI>)

¹⁰ UNSG, 14 March 2022. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/node/262376>

Programme has expressed grave fears that 2022 could be a year of catastrophic hunger. FAO's food price index confirms that world food prices are hitting record highs, linked to inflation in the transport, energy, fertiliser and feed sectors. This in turn leads to an ever-larger proportion of the population finding themselves unable to afford a healthy diet, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where people generally spend a larger share of their income on food¹¹.

Drivers such as chronic inequality, environmental crises, economic and health shocks, urbanisation, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies continually threaten to erode efforts to combat malnutrition. Globally, inadequate progress means that unacceptable levels of hunger and malnutrition persist. This year's EU-supported Global Report on Food Crises¹² estimates that in 2021 193 million people experienced 'crisis' levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) and are in need of urgent assistance across 53 countries/territories. This represents an increase of nearly 40 million people compared to the previous high reached in 2020. Of these, over half a million people (570 000) in Ethiopia, southern Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen were classified in the most severe phase of acute food insecurity Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) and required urgent action to avert widespread collapse of livelihoods, starvation and death. An additional 236 million people across 41 countries/territories are estimated to be in a 'stressed' state of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 2) - only one step away from crisis - in 2021.

Much of the world is not on track to achieve international nutrition targets set for the next decade, including the World Health Assembly nutrition targets for 2025 and SDG 2 targets for progressively eradicating child stunting, wasting and overweight by 2030. Worldwide, 149 million children under 5 are stunted, while 45 million are wasted, close to 400 million children are deficient in micronutrients and the number of children over 5 who are overweight or obese has more than doubled since 2000¹³. The world, including every country in Africa, is also off-course to meet all diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD) targets on salt intake, raised blood pressure, adult obesity and diabetes¹⁴.

Furthermore, as food systems continue to place unsustainable demands on resources, contribute to more than one third of greenhouse gas emissions¹⁵ and are increasingly threatened by climate and ecological crises, there are growing concerns regarding the future availability and accessibility of a sufficiently diverse range of foods necessary for safe and healthy diets. The requirement for a fundamental shift, if we are to ensure the inclusion, sustainability and resilience required to secure good nutrition for all, at all times, has never been clearer.

Highlights from the International Year of Nutrition

Supported every step of the way by the EU, 2021 was heralded as the International Year of Nutrition. An unprecedented series of strategic global summits on food systems, biodiversity, climate change and nutrition took place, helping to spark critical discourse around the centrality of ensuring healthy and sustainable diets and serving as a catalyst for action. Reflecting and reinforcing the core messages of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy, which recognises 'the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet', the events confirmed that the world stands on the brink of tremendous and much

¹¹ World Bank (2022). <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update>

¹² Global Report Food Crises <http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/events/grfc-2022/en/>

¹³ The prevalence of overweight among children between the ages of 5 and 19 years was 10% in 2000 and was over 20% (over 340 million children) in 2019. (UNICEF/WHO/WB Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates 2021 Edition)

¹⁴ Global Nutrition Report 2021.

¹⁵ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00225-9>

needed opportunities to ensure that food systems produce healthy and safe food in equitable ways while promoting environmental sustainability. Such a radical convergence of nutrition and sustainability, people and planet points the way to nothing less than a global food system transformation.

The UN Food Systems Summit held in September 2021 sought to capture the full diversity of these transformative opportunities to ‘launch bold new actions’ while providing a strategic moment for debate around the implications for global food systems governance and the challenges of addressing imbalanced power relations and interests in addition to resourcing more technical solutions. The summit also aimed to create a system of accountability, starting with the development of national pathways for food system transformation, against which countries can monitor and report progress. At the international level, the emergence of a number of coalitions in association with the various Action Tracks identified by the Summit is part of a broader effort to challenge business-as-usual and champion an integrated and systematic approach at scale to accelerate progress around specific challenges. Already, the EU has announced that it will be stepping up its support to partner countries’ efforts towards the transformation of food systems by actively engaging as a major partner in eight global Coalitions for Action¹⁶.

In the two months following the UN Food Systems Summit, the UN Biodiversity Conference and 26th UN Climate Change Summit (COP26), taking place against a backdrop of alarming data on global greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss, underscored recognition of the significant role that food systems must play both in tackling climate change and natural resource degradation. The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report¹⁷ has assessed that the climate crisis is accelerating faster than previously anticipated, with multifaceted and severe effects on nutrition outcomes.

The year closed with the participation of Commissioner Urpilainen in the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit and the call to governments as well as other stakeholders to make concrete financial, programmatic and impact-related commitments across the areas of health, resilience and food system transformation in order to promote safe, sustainable and healthy diets. The EU stepped up to pledge at least EUR 2.5 billion for investments in support of nutrition for the period 2021-2024¹⁸. Taken together, the broader commitments made by the EU and its Member States in a Team Europe spirit amount to at least EUR 4.3 billion, providing a major contribution to the summit’s outcomes as enshrined in a global compact capturing the ambition of stakeholders to reach specific and time-bound nutrition targets. France announced it would host the next N4G Summit in the margins of the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.

Building on this momentum, and coinciding with the 6th European Union–African Union Summit and under the leadership of the African Union and African Heads of State, 2022 has been designated as the Year of Nutrition for Africa. This bold initiative is invigorating political commitment for food system transformation, improved nutrition and the acceleration of human, social and economic development not only at country level but across the entire

¹⁶ The announcement of support was made in March 2022. The 8 Coalitions are: Zero Hunger, Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems, School Meals Coalition, Food is never waste, Aquatic and Blue Foods, Agro-ecology, Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and Sustainable Productive Growth.

¹⁷ IPCC (2022) Climate Change Impacts: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/reports?gclid=Cj0KCQjwl7qSBhD-ARIsACvV1X007ZYjL0d_sEvVokEqHSsR2_by_y9fUMa4EtZlm4BQisi3JXR61zMaAvpEEALw_wcB

¹⁸ This pledge is based on the EU’s estimation of the likely value of external assistance commitments covering both humanitarian assistance (EUR 1.1 billion to respond to the urgent nutrition related needs of the most vulnerable) and interventions tackling the underlying causes of malnutrition (such as poverty and structural inequalities) in third countries and regions under INTPA responsibility (EUR 1.4 billion). This pledge will accelerate the delivery of the existing EU pledge to support countries to reduce the number of stunted children by 7 million by 2025.

continent. It serves to remind us that nutrition can and must be recognised as a touchstone for the intersection of human and planetary health if the radical changes so urgently required across our food system are to be realised. However, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine now poses another major threat to food security and nutrition across the continent – particularly in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions. Africa is heavily reliant on food imports from both Ukraine and Russia such that price shocks and disruptions in the supply chain of several food crops (including wheat and sunflower) are already being experienced¹⁹. Rising fertiliser and other energy intensive input costs are also expected to negatively impact the next agricultural season.

Scope of the 7th Progress Report

Building on the six previous progress reports, this report seeks to conclude the annual tracking of achievements associated with the ambitious European commitments made in anticipation of the launch of the 2014-2020 EU programming cycle and which have underpinned the strategic and operational focus of the Union's work on nutrition within the context of international partnerships. These commitments were (i) to support partner countries in reducing the number of stunted children under the age of five by at least 7 million by 2025; and (ii) to allocate EUR 3.5 billion to investments for nutrition between 2014 and 2020. Both commitments are enshrined in the EU's policy framework on nutrition, which consists of the 2013 Commission Communication on 'enhancing maternal and child nutrition in external assistance: an EU policy framework' and the associated 2014-2025 Action Plan on Nutrition.

Section 2 of the report contributes to the current understanding of progress on reducing stunting in partner countries prioritising nutrition while Section 3 completes the systematic annual analysis of progress with respect to the financial pledge.

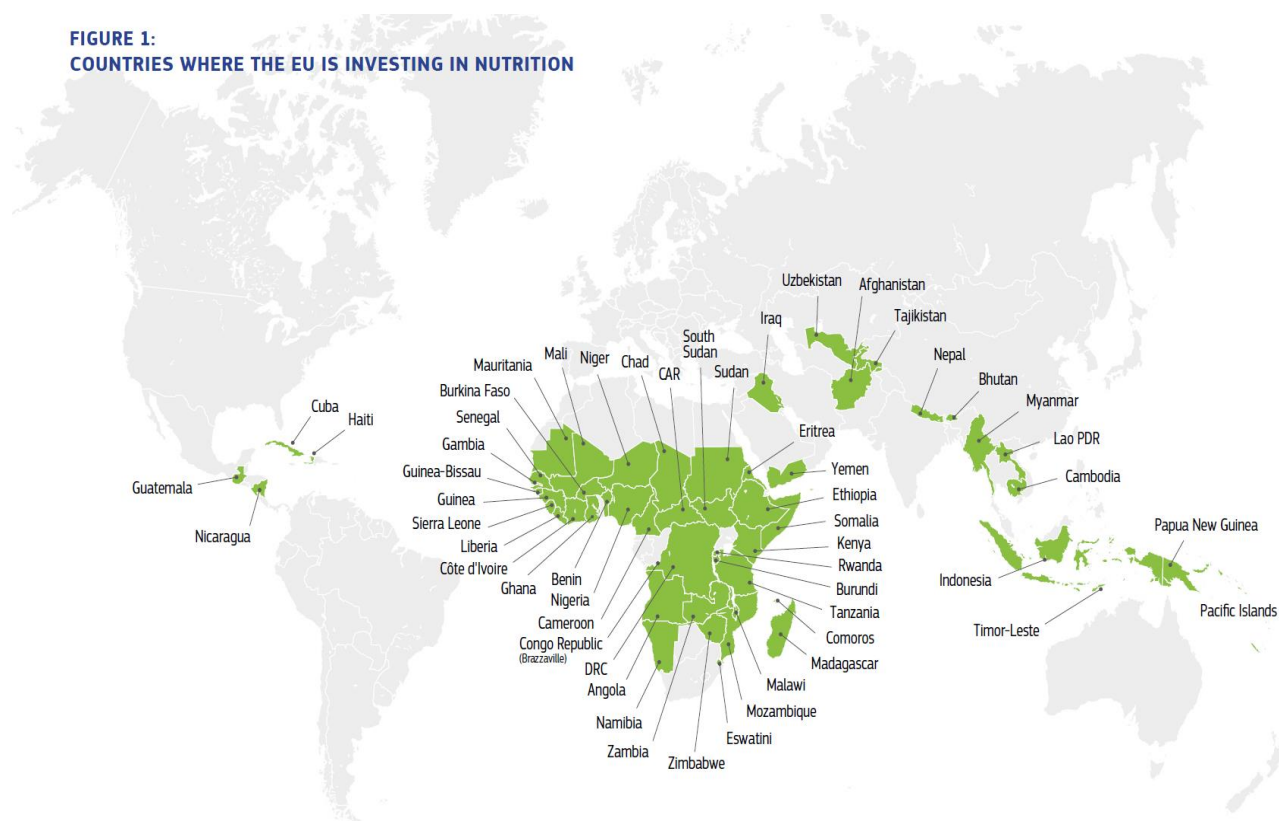
The detailed regional perspective on the diversity of nutrition related investments provided in last year's progress report is continued this year in Section 4, thereby extending the assessment of country level and global programmes' tangible delivery of results. This year, a specific focus is on the provision of support to partner countries to ensure healthy and sustainable diets.

The Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument will channel the biggest share of the EU external action funds, with a budget of €79.5 billion for the period 2021-2027. It will be the EU's main tool to contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development, prosperity, peace and stability. The country, regional and thematic multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs) adopted in December 2021 identify priority areas and specific objectives and advance the roll-out of a 'Team Europe' approach²⁰. Section 4 closes by providing a brief overview of encouraging preliminary analysis regarding the ongoing prioritisation of an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to nutrition across country MIPs together with a taste of some of the fresh actions already being generated within the framework of the current programming cycle.

¹⁹ North Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Africa are particularly affected, accounting for 80% of all wheat imports in Africa. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/may-2022/how-russia-ukraine-conflict%C2%A0impacts-africa>

²⁰ European Union consists of the EU institutions, including the European Investment Bank, Member States and their implementing organisations and development financing institutions, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

**FIGURE 1:
COUNTRIES WHERE THE EU IS INVESTING IN NUTRITION**



Section 2. Progress in supporting partner countries to reduce the number of children stunted

- *Among the 42 countries where investment for nutrition has been prioritised, over 90% have seen a decrease in stunting prevalence since 2012.*
- *Because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, new anthropometric data (from 2019 onwards) is currently only available for Honduras and Pakistan (Azad Jammu & Kashmir).*
- *A global lack of up-to-date data means that inferences about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on stunting progress remain based solely on modelled data.*
- *Stunting progress is expected to slow, and even worsen, in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of conflict and instability, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.*

This year's progress report on stunting reduction, which sees the closing of the 2014-2020 programming phase, is set against a challenging backdrop due to a lack of available and up-to-date data. This is not just for stunting but for all forms of malnutrition. Measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as social distancing, lockdowns and self-isolation, have seen an increase in reliance on phone surveys as a means of generating new data. One example includes the World Bank high frequency monitoring telephone surveys²¹, which set out to look at the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. However, the collection of anthropometric data, which are crucial to be able to measure progress toward nutrition targets, including the EU progress toward the stunting reduction commitment, has not been possible. In fact, for the 42 selected countries where nutrition is a priority, there have only been 2 countries (Honduras and a specific region in Pakistan) where anthropometric data has been analysed and made available since 2019 as reported in the Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME)²². Whilst more data has either been collected (Benin, Nigeria and Pakistan for Balochistan province) or planned (Lao PDR, Yemen) for the 2021/22 period, this data will only be analysed and available for the next progress report.

Even before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2²³, including ending all forms of malnutrition (target 2.2). And, based on data projections, this disappointing progress at the global level is not only expected to continue but to worsen in LMICs²⁴. The COVID-19 pandemic has perpetuated the malnutrition-poverty cycle and has exacerbated both increases in food prices and declines in household incomes leading to changes in both availability and affordability of healthy diets as well as interruptions to essential health, nutrition and social protection services. Already in 2017, the number of people who could not afford even the cheapest options for a healthy diet was estimated to be around 3 billion²⁵. On top of the continuing pandemic, conflict and instability around the world, including most recently Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, also have serious implications for food systems, undermining food supply and

²¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2020/11/11/covid-19-high-frequency-monitoring-dashboard>

²² However, even these data have yet to have been added to the JME database, meaning that these data are not yet included in the 'stunting reduction calculation tool' (SRCT). Furthermore, the Honduras data is from a survey carried out pre-COVID, in 2019 and the Pakistan data (2021) is from one province only (Azad Jammu & Kashmir) and is therefore not representative of the country.

²³ To eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

²⁴ Osendarp S., J.K. Akuoku, R.E. Black et al. 2021 The COVID-19 crisis will exacerbate maternal and child undernutrition and child mortality in low- and middle-income countries. *Nat Food* 2, 476–484. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-021-00319-4>

²⁵ Herforth A., Y. Bai, A. Venkat, K. Mahrt, A. Ebel and W.A. Masters (2020). *Cost and affordability of healthy diets across and within countries. Background paper for The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020*. FAO Agricultural Development Economics Technical Study No. 9. Rome, FAO.

availability, as well as agricultural inputs and the cost of transporting commodities, and will ultimately affect the dietary intake and thereby the nutritional status, especially of vulnerable populations.

Unhealthy diets are one of the major risk factors contributing to the development of obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension and some cancers²⁶, and these are all expected to further increase due to the pandemic. Children and adults with underlying comorbidities, particularly NCDs and malnutrition, in any form, are much more vulnerable to serious illness and death from COVID-19, so emphasising the need to address the quality of diets as a critical and integral component of efforts to improve nutrition status.

While lack of data presents a challenge, it also provides an opportunity to review previous data in a different light. Stunting has been an important indicator of choice over the past decade to measure nutrition progress across and within countries and across nutrition interventions and programmes. However, there is a risk that a singular focus on one indicator can also lead to the misinterpretation of a nutrition programme or intervention's impact and its impact on nutrition. It is increasingly recognised, for example, that a time lag between a nutrition intervention and stunting reduction does not necessarily mean that the intervention has failed. Correspondingly, there is growing interest around measuring other benefits of nutrition interventions. This includes the impact on child wasting, which can coexist and interact with child stunting; the double burden of malnutrition meaning the coexistence of undernutrition along with overweight, child development, food insecurity e.g., as measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES); and the quality of diet. As a result, and while stunting remains a crucial indicator for tracking chronic child undernutrition, there is growing appreciation of the value in selecting those indicators most relevant to the programme in question and in line with its causal pathway²⁷.

This recognition, as well as the increasing attention on sustainable healthy diets from an environmental and health point of view, and the need to consider dietary quality and affordability, is catalysing investment in the development of new ways to measure diet quality and NCD risk. Aside from the globally recognised dietary diversity indicators, the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W)²⁸ and the Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) for children aged 6-23 months, there are an increasing number of additional dietary indicators currently being validated. For example, Annex 2 highlights the Global Diet Quality Project case study that, as well as measuring MDD-W, has introduced a new indicator to measure NCD risk (the GDR – Global Dietary Recommendations score). Together, these two indicators provide a complementary way to capture different dimensions of diet quality.

Stunting trends – Sub-Saharan Africa in focus

This section presents the analysis of data from the 'stunting reduction calculation tool' (SRCT) for the 29 Sub-Saharan African partner countries prioritising nutrition. The prevalence of stunting decreased in every region (Figure 2) between 2012 and 2021 and this trend is expected to continue to 2025. In Sub-Saharan Africa, however, while stunting prevalence fell, the number of stunted children increased (Figure 3), and this trend is expected

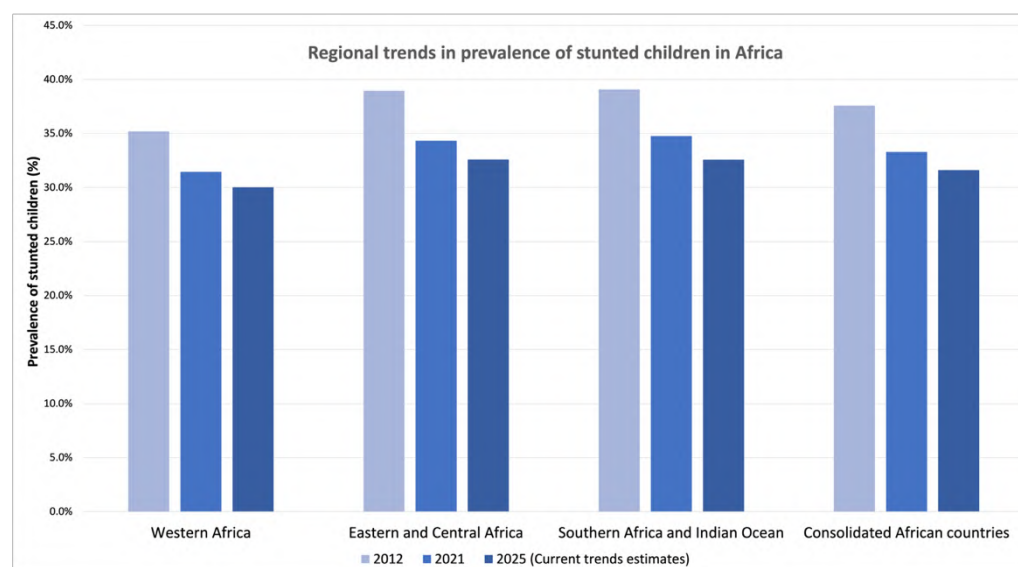
²⁶ Akseer N., G. Kandru, E.C. Keats, Z.A. Bhutta. COVID-19 pandemic and mitigation strategies: implications for maternal and child health and nutrition, *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Volume 112, Issue 2, August 2020, pp. 251-256, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/nqaa171>

²⁷ USAID Advancing Nutrition. 2021. *Beyond Stunting: Complementary Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluating USAID Nutrition Activities*. Arlington, VA: USAID Advancing Nutrition.

²⁸ This data (provided by the Global Diet Quality Product (<https://www.globaldietquality.org/>) using the Diet Quality Questionnaire) will become freely available by 2023 for 95 countries. Research is underway to define the cut-off points for pregnant women.

to continue to 2025 due to the decline in stunting being outpaced by population growth. The global population is set to peak at around 9.7 billion in 2064, and then decline to about 8.8 billion by 2100²⁹, Sub-Saharan African regions will be the last to peak, between 2087 and 2100⁸. By implication, none of the 29 Sub-Saharan African countries are on track to meet the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) stunting target.

Figure 2: Regional trends in prevalence of stunted children in Sub-Saharan Africa

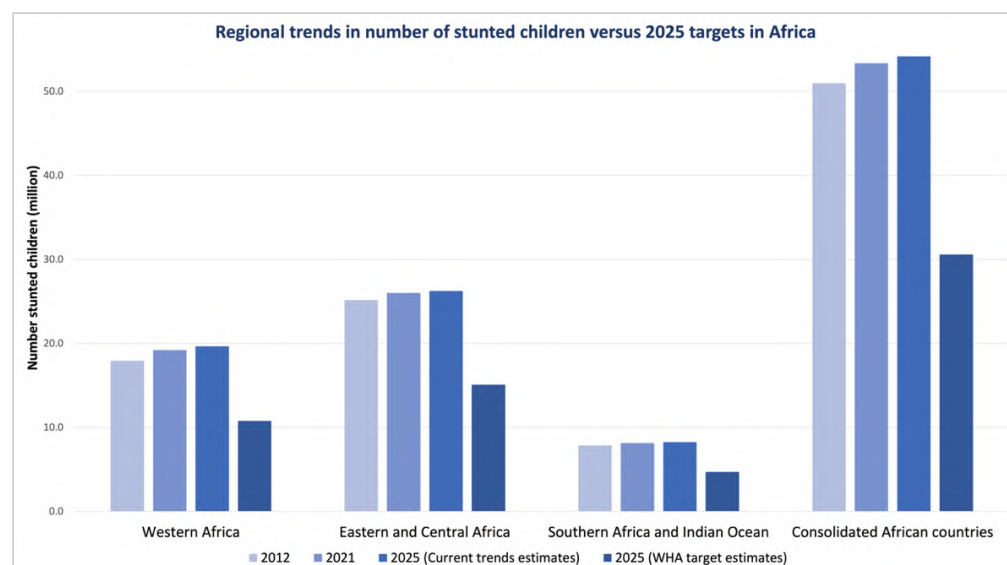


Prevalence of stunting (%)	2012	2021	2025*
Western Africa	35.2%	31.4%	30.0%
Eastern and Central Africa	38.9%	34.3%	32.6%
Southern Africa and Indian Ocean	39.1%	34.8%	32.6%
Consolidated Sub-Saharan African countries	37.6%	33.3%	31.6%

* Current trends estimates

²⁹ Vollset S.E. et al. *Lancet* **396**, 1285–1306 (2020). Based on continued trends in female educational attainment and access to contraception

Figure 3: Regional trends in number of stunted children vs WHA 2025 targets in Sub-Saharan Africa



Estimated number of stunted children (millions)	2012	2021	2025*
Western Africa	17.9	19.2	19.7
Eastern and Central Africa	25.2	26.0	26.2
Southern Africa and Indian Ocean	7.9	8.1	8.3
Consolidated Sub-Saharan African countries	51.0	53.3	54.2

* Current trends estimates

** The 4th bar in each regional set (darkest blue) shows the WHA target for the number of stunted children.

Success stories in Sub-Saharan Africa

Even though many countries are not on track to meet the WHA target for stunting there have been some successes in terms of decreasing stunting prevalence. For example, in both Ethiopia and Senegal the prevalence of stunting has decreased by over 40% since 1992; 43% in Ethiopia (1992-2016) and 50% in Senegal (1992-2017) and by 45% in Burkina Faso between 1998/99-2018.

‘Ethiopia has achieved broad-based progress to fight stunting by becoming one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.’³⁰

‘Senegal improved its nutrition, health and education coverage rates to drive a steep reduction in stunting.’³¹

In Burkina Faso, ‘the largest driver of change in height-for-age Z-scores (HAZ) among the drivers considered was improvement in appropriate immunization coverage, which increased from 21% in 1998–99 to 76% in 2010.’³²

³⁰ <https://www.exemplars.health/topics/stunting/ethiopia>

³¹ <https://www.exemplars.health/topics/stunting/senegal>

³² <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s12571-022-01274-z.pdf>

Progression of all forms of malnutrition

We present a dashboard (Annex 1) including nutrition-relevant indicators to facilitate understanding of individual countries' progress since baseline indicating potential trends towards the 2025 WHA targets. The dashboard continues to show the evolution of national-level data from a 2012 baseline and uses the SRCT to present data on child stunting trends. For stunting reduction, it adopts a traffic light (dot) system to show improvement (green), no change (yellow) or deterioration (red) between 2012 and 2021. Refer to Annex 1 for further explanation.

This year, to pave the way for the expanded set of countries where the EU is investing in nutrition in the 2021-2027 NDICI-Global Europe programming cycle³³, 19 countries have been added to the original 42 in the dashboard (totalling to 61 countries – not including the 13 individual countries making up the Pacific Islands). Importantly, many of these additional countries have incomplete datasets to report on nutritional outcomes.

The dashboard shows the following key findings:

- Stunting prevalence in children under five has declined in all countries with data except for Angola, Djibouti, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands (the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)³⁴.
- Overall, the prevalence of wasting in children under five has declined³⁵, and nearly 50% of countries with data are on track to meet the WHA target for wasting.
- Between 2012 and 2015, all countries with data saw an improvement in low birth weight, except for Cameroon, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Namibia, Nicaragua, Uzbekistan and the Pacific Islands (Vanuatu).
- Rates of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) have improved in over two thirds of countries, with half of countries on track to meet the WHA target for EBF. EBF rates have worsened in around 10% of countries with the Pacific Islands (Tonga) and Malawi seeing the worst performance and Chad, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq and Nigeria with the lowest prevalence.
- Twenty two countries (43%) are 'off course' to achieve the WHA target, 'no increase in overweight/obesity in children under five'. Including 14 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Guinea and Liberia); five countries from the Middle East, Asia and Pacific region (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Nepal, Indonesia and Solomon Islands) and three East African countries (Burundi, Cameroon and Tanzania).

Progress has been less apparent with respect to anaemia in women of reproductive age. Whilst only one country (Guatemala) is on track to meet the WHA target to reduce the anaemia prevalence in women, 15 countries are showing 'some progress': seven in West Africa (Chad, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Ghana, Guinea); four in East and Central Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Congo), two in Middle East and Central Asia (Iraq and Uzbekistan); one in the Latin America and Caribbean region (Cuba); one in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (Zimbabwe). Around two thirds of countries are making 'no progress or worsening'.

³³ Further information on 2021-2027 programming is presented in Section 4.

³⁴ The countries making up the Pacific Islands are Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

³⁵ Except for Benin, Guinea, Bissau, Lao PDR, Nepal, Sudan, Yemen, Congo, Eswatini, Ghana and the Solomon Islands.

Section 3. Progress in ensuring the allocation of EUR 3.5 billion to improve nutrition

Between 2014 and 2020, the European Union committed over EUR 4.3 billion for nutrition – EUR 835 million more than was pledged in 2013

In December 2021, at the N4G Summit in Tokyo, and for the period 2021-2024, the EU pledged to commit EU 2.5 billion for international assistance having a nutrition objective

Financial commitments to nutrition in 2020

In 2020³⁶, 44 new EU nutrition-related financing decisions were approved³⁷. The total amount committed³⁸ to nutrition was EUR 535.8 million, of which EUR 56.9 million was for nutrition specific commitments and EUR 478.9 million was for nutrition sensitive commitments; EUR 282 million was financed by development aid instruments and EUR 253.8 million by humanitarian aid instruments³⁹. Analysis of the 2020 development-funded nutrition commitments indicated that 17 out of 32 new financing decisions were COVID-19-related, accounting for EUR 108.2 million out of a total of EUR 282 million⁴⁰.

Financial commitments to nutrition 2014-2020

Total nutrition commitments in the period 2014-2020 amount to over EUR 4.3 billion (see Table 1). This means that the EU's target of committing EUR 3.5 billion towards nutrition in the period 2014-2020 has been surpassed by EUR 835 million.

Table 1: Nutrition commitments by category and funding source, 2014-2020 (million EUR)

	Development aid instruments				Humanitarian aid instruments			Total EU
	Nutrition-specific	Nutrition-Sensitive		Subtotal	Nutrition-Sensitive		Subtotal	
		Dominant	Partial		Dominant ⁴¹	Partial		
2014	33.9	25.0	171.0	229.9	91.5	133.2	224.7	454.6
2015	53.0	18.1	238.6	309.6	87.5	149.5	237.0	546.6
2016	167.5	244.5	481.0	893.0	0.0	168.6	168.6	1 061.6
2017	60.0	0.0	316.3	376.3	0.0	190.3	190.3	566.6
2018	100.6	0.0	219.5	320.2	0.0	226.2	226.2	546.4
2019	217.1	56.3	135.5	408.9	0.0	214.4	214.4	623.3
2020	56.9	42.9	182.2	282.0	0.0	253.8	253.8	535.8
Total 2014-2020	689.0	386.7	1 744.2	2 819.8	179.0	1 336.1	1 515.0	4 334.8

³⁶ This section draws on the EU's annual Nutrition Resource Tracking Report. Official ODA data are available on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) [Creditor Reporting System](#) (CRS).

³⁷ Comprising 32 development aid decisions (of which 15 were top-ups and 2 were EU Trust Fund for Africa decisions) and 12 humanitarian aid decisions.

³⁸ The EU defines a commitment as a 'legal obligation to spend money that is signed in a given financial year' while 'the amounts are not necessarily paid out in the same year but may be spent over several financial years'.

³⁹ The EU applies [the methodology of the SUN Donor Network for nutrition resource tracking](#) which categorises nutrition commitments as either nutrition specific or nutrition sensitive. In this methodology humanitarian actions cannot be categorised as nutrition specific.

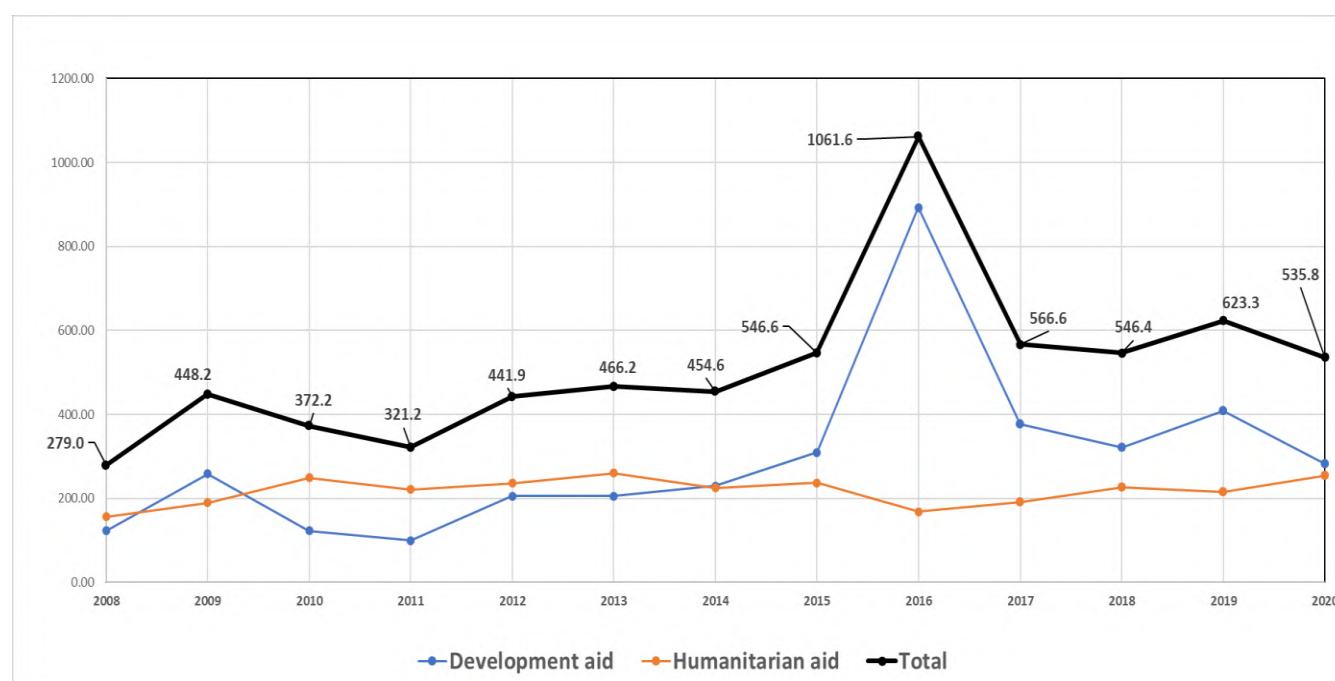
⁴⁰ Data based on nutrition commitments with an OECD DAC COVID Policy Marker (Significant or Principal).

⁴¹ Most Humanitarian Aid Decisions are multi-sectoral and hence are partial nutrition-sensitive.

Between 2014 and 2020, nutrition-specific commitments amounted to EUR 689 million, while nutrition-sensitive commitments exceeded EUR 3.6 billion, in line with the EU's prioritisation of a multi-sectoral approach to programming for nutrition described in the Action Plan on Nutrition.

Efforts in the 2014-2020 programming period to boost investments in nutrition in the context of EU international cooperation resulted in a general upward trend compared to the previous programming period (2007-2013), both with respect to total and development-funded nutrition commitments (see Figure 4)⁴². The average nutrition commitment in the previous funding period was EUR 388.1 million per year, compared with EUR 619.3 million per year in the current funding period.

Figure 4: Nutrition commitments by funding source, 2008-2020 (million EUR)



Nutrition disbursements, 2014-2020

While nutrition commitments constitute the legal decision to fund an action, nutrition disbursements reflect the actual expenditures related to previous commitments. Disbursements thus give a more accurate representation of implementation. In 2020, EU nutrition disbursements totalled EUR 643.4 million, the highest in the seven-year programming period (see Table 2). Of this, EUR 88.2 million was nutrition specific and EUR 555.2 million was nutrition sensitive. The sum was disbursed via both EU development cooperation (EUR 418.6 million) and humanitarian aid instruments (EUR 224.8 million). Total nutrition disbursements for 2014-2020 amounted to almost EUR 3.5 billion.

⁴² Lower development funded nutrition commitments in 2020 compared with 2019 is likely to reflect a general pattern that, by 2020, most development funding had already been committed earlier in the programming period.

Table 2: Nutrition disbursements, 2014-2020 (million EUR)

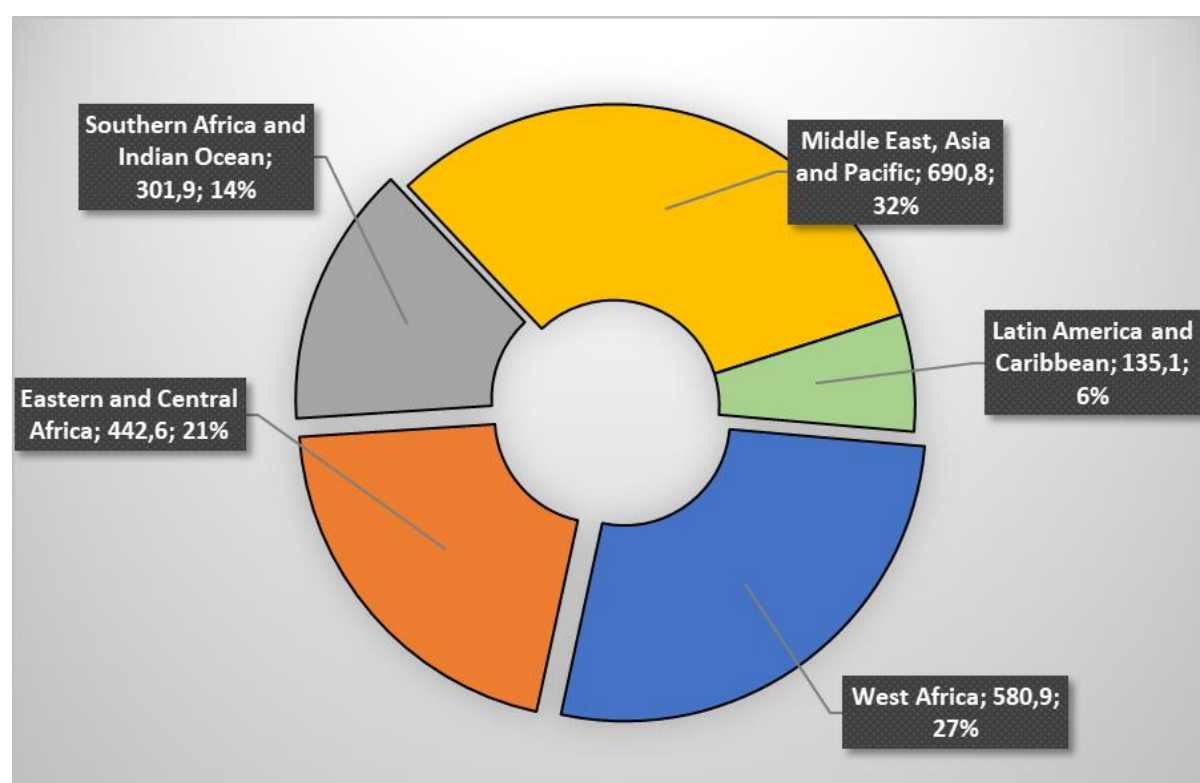
Year	Development aid instruments				Humanitarian aid instruments			Total EU
	Nutrition	Nutrition-sensitive		Sub-total	Nutrition-sensitive		Sub-total	
	specific	Dominant	Partial		Dominant	Partial		
2014	33.7	26.6	103.3	163.6	130.3	170.1	300.4	464
2015	43.5	14.6	114.3	172.4	119.5	133.7	253.3	425.7
2016	26.9	15.1	226.2	268.2	30.1	177.8	207.8	476
2017	50.7	36.4	242.9	329.9	2.8	195.8	198.6	528.5
2018	45.3	28.8	216.5	290.6	0.1	186.9	187	477.6
2019	72.4	18.7	188.2	279.2		199.8	199.8	479.0
2020	88.2	40.7	289.7	418.6		224.8	224.8	643.4
Total	360.6	180.9	1 381.1	1 922.5	282.8	1 288.9	1 571.7	3 494.2

Geographical distribution of development cooperation nutrition commitments

Nutrition commitments financed through development cooperation instruments have been primarily targeted at 42 countries that have a high burden of stunting and have prioritised nutrition in their multi-annual indicative plans as agreed with the EU. Of the EUR 2.8 billion development nutrition commitments made between 2014 and 2020, these 42 countries received EUR 2.2 billion⁴³. Development-funded nutrition commitments have been made for all the 42 countries. The regional breakdown below shows that the three regions of sub-Saharan Africa combined received 62% of the total, while the Middle East, Asia and Pacific region received 32% and Latin America and the Caribbean received 6% (Figure 5).

⁴³ Most of the remainder, EUR 497.2 million, cannot be disaggregated to country level.

Figure 5: Development-funded nutrition commitments by region, 42 countries, 2014-2020 (million EUR)



Note: Data excludes some regional, global and policy/research/information commitments in 2014-2020 that could not be disaggregated by beneficiary country at this stage, amounting to EUR 497.2 million (17.6% of the total).

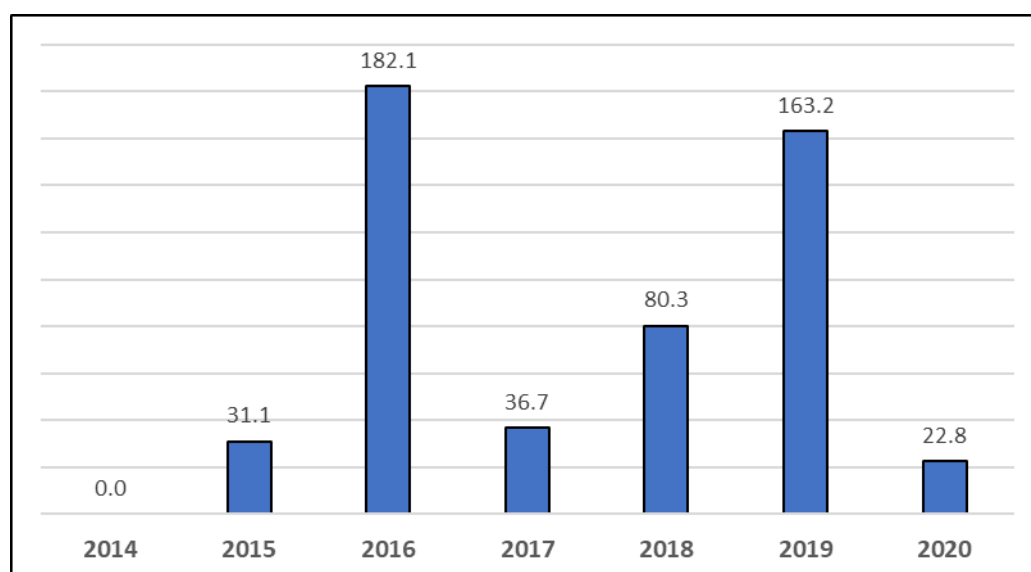
Budget support for nutrition

Since 2014, the EU has acknowledged that budget support can offer an efficient and effective means to scale up investment in nutrition by promoting a government-led, accountable and inclusive approach to service delivery across multiple sectors.

Budget support can assist a government in delivering on its multi-sectoral nutrition policy or plans, which most EU partner countries prioritised for nutrition have already developed, as well as enhancing nutrition-related outcomes of specific sectoral policies – for example agriculture, social protection, education, health and governance – while also improving public financial management.

New budget support actions relevant for nutrition were approved in 2020 for Fiji and for top-ups in Honduras, Niger and Rwanda, with the nutrition amount totalling EUR 22.8 million (Figure 6), comprising 8% of all development-funded nutrition commitments. From 2014 to 2020, the EU invested a total of EUR 516.1 million in budget support for nutrition-related actions in 17 countries.

Figure 6: Nutrition commitments through budget support, 2014-2020 (million EUR)



Partnerships for nutrition

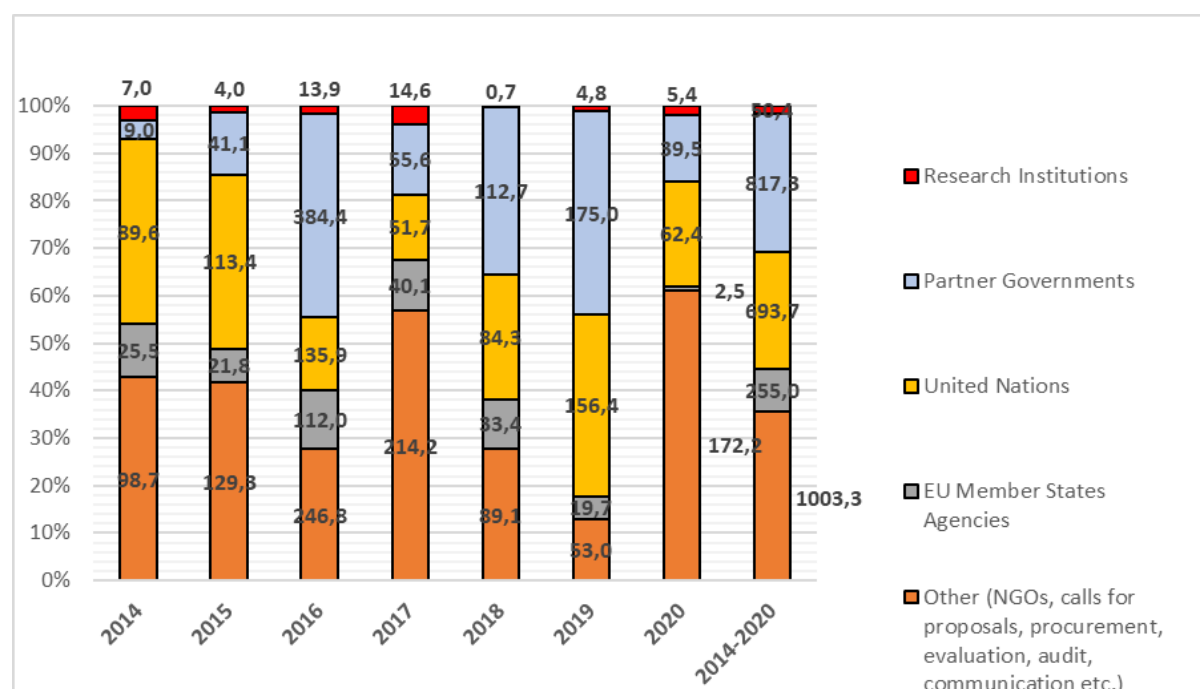
An important feature of the Action Plan on Nutrition has been partnerships with other actors, including Member States and their agencies, for scaling up nutrition investments through leveraging co-financing and for multi-stakeholder collaboration around implementation of nutrition actions⁴⁴.

Co-financing in 2020 leveraged an additional EUR 16 million above the EU development cooperation nutrition envelope of EUR 282 million. For the 2014-2020 period, co-financing added EUR 1.5 billion to the EU's EUR 2.8 billion.

For implementing partnerships in 2020, UN agencies and partner governments were the largest categories of recipients of EU development aid funding for nutrition, although more than half of funding could not be categorised (Figure 7). Between 2014 and 2020, partner governments received EUR 8817.3 million, UN agencies EUR 693.7 million and EU Member State agencies EUR 255 million.

⁴⁴ Examples of programmes co-financed or implemented by Member State agencies are presented in Section 4 and Annex 2 of this report, e.g. Afikepo.

Figure 7: Development aid nutrition commitments by implementing partner category, 2014-2020 (million EUR)



Nutrition resource tracking going forward

Coinciding with the achievement of the EUR 3.5 billion pledge in 2020 and the start of the programming period 2021-2027, at the N4G summit in Tokyo the EU made a new nutrition pledge, to commit EUR 2.5 billion to international cooperation with a nutrition objective from 2021 to 2024 (EUR 1.4 billion in development aid and EUR 1.1 billion in humanitarian aid).

At the same time, the EU, alongside other nutrition donors and with the support of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Donor Network, committed to reporting official development assistance (ODA) to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) using its voluntary Nutrition Policy Marker to identify actions with a nutrition objective. From 2021 nutrition resource tracking in the EU will therefore follow the OECD DAC guidelines for nutrition reporting⁴⁵. This new method has several advantages: its application is less resource intensive, more decentralised and closer to where actions are implemented. As a result of this method taking place earlier in the programming cycle, opportunities can be created to promote more dialogue on strengthening nutrition interventions.

The EU will continue to track financial resources for nutrition on an annual basis for internal reporting (the annual Nutrition Resource Tracking report) as well as external reporting (the Progress Report on the EU's Action Plan for Nutrition (every two years) and reporting to OECD DAC and to the Global Nutrition Report (annually).

⁴⁵ [OECD DAC Nutrition Policy Marker Handbook](#)

Section 4: Healthy and sustainable diets for all

This section introduces ‘stories of change’, case studies of EU programmes that support partner countries around the world to end malnutrition. These stories – which are further detailed in Annex 2 – show the continued effectiveness of the EU nutrition strategy, which is grounded in a holistic, multi-sectoral, contextual and rights-based approach. This year’s focus is on programmes designed and delivered to advance healthy and sustainable diets. Grouped by region, they show how resources are being translated into results on the ground, improving millions of lives.

Why healthy and sustainable diets matter for nutrition

Healthy diets are intrinsic to the human right to food⁴⁶, and are a precondition for human development and for more just and resilient societies. Globally, however, diets are neither healthy nor sustainable. As 2021 was the Year of Nutrition, and also saw the UN Food Systems Summit, UN Climate Change Summit (COP 26) and the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, it served as a clarion call that it is no longer acceptable for food systems to focus narrowly on providing calories to feed the world. Rather, they must focus on health, sustainability and inclusivity, to provide high-quality diets that ensure optimum health and nutrition at all times and for all people.

Unhealthy diets – the unacceptable human and economic costs

While the causes of malnutrition around the world are complex, poor-quality diets remain the leading preventable risk factor for premature deaths⁴⁷. No region in the world meets recommendations for healthy diets. Globally, the intake of red and processed meat is five times the maximum level recommended and still on the rise, as is consumption of sugary drinks. Fruit and vegetable intake remain around 50% below recommended levels, with lower-income countries continuing to have the lowest intakes⁴⁸.

Increased consumption of highly processed foods, as well as of other products with high salt, sugar and fat content, is a major contributor to obesity, type 2 diabetes and related diseases⁴⁹. In particular, the consumption of such foods is becoming increasingly widespread in low- and middle- income countries, where already 85% of the global burden of premature deaths from NCDs occur⁵⁰. A recent study has highlighted how in Africa, the surge in consumption of highly processed foods is linked to a rapid rise in obesity, while at the same time levels of undernutrition (stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies) remain high – leading to a double burden of malnutrition⁵¹. While estimating the economic costs of unhealthy diets is highly complex and depends on the methodologies applied, the

⁴⁶ The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights has recognised that the right to adequate food is of crucial importance for the enjoyment of all human rights and considers this to imply ‘the availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture’. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has also recognised the obligation of States to ensure access to nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate and safe food to combat malnutrition in all its forms.

⁴⁷ Lancet, 2019. According to the most recent Global Nutrition Report, unhealthy diets are now responsible for more than 12 million deaths in adults amounting to 26% of all adult deaths.

⁴⁸ Global Nutrition Report 2021.

⁴⁹ <https://gh.bmj.com/content/6/7/e006885>

⁵⁰ WHO (2021). <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases>

⁵¹ Reardon, Thomas et.al (2021). The processed food revolution in African food systems and the double burden of malnutrition. Global Food Security Vol 28. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2020.100466>

economic impact of inaction on obesity results is a global average diversion of almost two percent of GDP, attributable mainly to healthcare and lost productivity costs⁵². Conversely, the Global Nutrition Report estimates that the total economic gains to society of a broad investment in nutrition could reach USD 5.7 trillion a year by 2030 and USD 10.5 trillion a year by 2050.

Furthermore, it must be recognised that the quality of diets, food safety and nutrition are inextricably linked, with unsafe food creating a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, the elderly and the sick. It is estimated that, globally, 420 000 people die every year as a result of eating contaminated food, with most of these cases being children under five⁵³. In addition to foodborne illnesses caused by bacteria, viruses and pathogens, chemically contaminated food (whether as a result of unsafe use of pesticides, herbicides or industrial chemicals) also presents significant health concerns.

Dietary patterns expose all the positive and negative externalities of the food system, thus providing a framework for comprehensive analysis. To address malnutrition, diets must improve. At the same time, the goal of ending poor diets and malnutrition in all its forms is linked with some of the world's most pressing challenges. The harmful impacts of food systems on the planet are increasing with the growing production of animal-source foods responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions and land use⁵⁴. Globally, it has been estimated that food systems account for around one third of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions⁵⁵. Malnutrition can be understood both as a cause and a symptom of the climate and environmental emergency. While poor diets drive environmental pollution and unsustainable use of natural resources⁵⁶, global warming and biodiversity loss undermine people's access to food. Moreover, food systems are characterised by power imbalances and are failing to deliver equitable benefits for all, while often leaving the most vulnerable behind. With compounding drivers such as urbanisation, market globalisation and mass food marketing, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the global nutrition crisis by disrupting livelihoods and value chains. The crisis has also highlighted – via the strong links between obesity, diabetes and more severe COVID-19 outcomes – the centrality of good nutrition to our personal health and resilience.

Indigenous peoples have demonstrated for millennia that food systems can be managed in a sustainable and healthy way when founded on values of reciprocity and respect for ecosystems. As recognised in a recent FAO report⁵⁷, indigenous people's knowledge of sustainable food systems needs to be recognised as providing valuable insights, lessons and evidence. In a similar vein, the overarching message of the ambitious EU Farm to Fork Strategy is that our conversations and action on sustainability and diets, as a fundamental priority for human development, can no longer be separated, and the need of the day is for ways of working that are collaborative rather than disconnected. Food systems are at the centre of the climate-biodiversity-nutrition nexus and food has been recognised as 'the single strongest level to optimise human health and environmental sustainability on Earth'⁵⁸.

⁵² <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2021-global-nutrition-report/>

⁵³ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/199350>

⁵⁴ Global Nutrition Report 2021

⁵⁵ IPCC (2020). <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

⁵⁶ Increasingly industrialised food systems have resulted in 90% of humanity's energy intake coming from only 15 crops (Leite et al, 2021).

⁵⁷ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5131en/>

⁵⁸ EAT – Lancet Commission 2019.

What is meant by a ‘healthy and sustainable diet’?

As defined by the Committee on Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, ‘healthy diets are those diets that are of adequate quantity and quality to achieve optimal growth and development of all individuals and support functioning and physical, mental and social wellbeing at all life stages and physiological needs’⁵⁹. A healthy and sustainable diet must not only be nutritionally adequate and safe – it must also have a low environmental impact and be protective of natural resources and biodiversity. The exact make-up of healthy diets varies depending on an individual’s characteristics (e.g. age, gender, lifestyle and degree of physical activity), geographical, demographical, cultural patterns and contexts, food preferences, availability of foods from local, regional and international sources, and dietary customs. However, FAO/WHO guidance for healthy and sustainable diets to contribute to preventing all forms of malnutrition and reduce the risk of diet-related non-communicable disease, emphasises (i) the requirement for a great variety of unprocessed or minimally processed foods, balanced across food groups (including ‘an abundance and variety of fruits and vegetables’ as well as legumes and whole grains) and (ii) restricting ‘highly processed foods and drink products’ with poor nutritional value and generally high in saturated and trans-fats, sugars and salt/sodium⁶⁰.

At the same time, diets should ‘maintain greenhouse gas emissions, water and land use, nitrogen and phosphorous application and chemical pollution within set targets’ while ‘preserving biodiversity including that of crops, livestock, forest-derived foods and aquatic genetic resources’⁶¹. It is generally recognised that animal-sourced foods have greater environmental impacts than plant-based foods⁶². The ‘planetary health diet’ proposed by the EAT-Lancet Commission – as a means to nourish a population of 10 billion people by 2030 while respecting planetary boundaries – concludes that ‘a diet rich in plant-based foods and with fewer animal-source foods confers both improved health and environmental benefits’⁶³. Crucially, in alignment with a rights-based approach, a healthy and sustainable diet must in addition be accessible, economically fair and affordable.

Healthy dietary practices start early in life. In the context of ‘first-foods systems’, exclusive breastfeeding and continuing breastfeeding until a child is at least two provides the safest, most nutritious and protective option, ensuring child survival and optimal development⁶⁴. Beyond the first 1 000 days of life, the realisation of human potential for development requires good nutrition throughout the 8 000 days of childhood and adolescence, with adolescent girls in particular being especially at risk of iron deficiency anaemia.

⁵⁹ <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/cfs-voluntary-guidelines-on-food-systems-and-nutrition>

⁶⁰ FAO and WHO (2019). <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516648>

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Global Nutrition Report 2021.

⁶³ https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/07/EAT-Lancet_Commission_Summary_Report.pdf. The EAT Lancet

Commission report also underscores that such a diet should not be taken out of context as a one size fits all recommendation

⁶⁴ It is estimated that near universal breastfeeding would save an estimated 823,000 deaths in children under-5 years of age, and 98 000 maternal deaths from cancer and type-2 diabetes every year.

<https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-021-00708-1>

Evidence on what works best and insights to carry forward

The UN Food Systems Summit called for transformation of the food system through multi-sectoral and global collaboration for combating malnutrition in all its forms, enabling people to adopt healthy and sustainable diet-related practices, which are required to nourish present and future generations within planetary boundaries. The EU Farm to Fork Strategy confirms the EU's leadership role in accelerating such bold transformative efforts by delivering a practical policy framework to support the urgent transition to healthy and sustainable food systems to achieve the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals both within Europe and beyond⁶⁵. The EU Farm to Fork Strategy illustrates that financial resources alone are not enough to effect a transformative approach; positive change depends on policies as well as investments.

New ways of thinking and doing business are required to reverse the declining health of people and planet. Systems thinking needs to be at the centre of policy priorities to address the physical, economic, commercial and ecological determinants of unhealthy diets. There is a growing shift in focus away from working to influence individuals' dietary decisions and towards efforts which create a food system, and in particular 'food environments', that enable healthier food options and eating patterns as the default. At the same time, it is acknowledged that no single exemplar diet exists, and local interpretation is encouraged to reflect the culture, geography and demography of a given population and for specific individuals. Due to the high cost of nutrient-rich non staple foods, healthy diets are unaffordable for at least 3 billion people in the world who live on under USD 5.5 dollars a day. In the context of an industrialised and globalised food system, this drives consumption towards cheap, monotonous, and highly processed diets⁶⁶. Clearly, convenience (particularly given greater participation of women in labour markets), preference and desirability, as well as the aggressive marketing of products, also exert crucial influences on food choices and need to be considered if population-wide uptake of more healthy and sustainable diets is to be viable. There are therefore multiple, complex factors – sociocultural, environmental, and political – reaching beyond personal decisions and exerting a strong influence on food choices and dietary patterns.

As many of the case studies here illustrate, international partnerships have a vital role to play. Narrative shifts from 'we feed the world' to 'the world must feed itself', from addressing hunger in isolation to ensuring healthier diets and addressing malnutrition in all its forms, will be required to chart the course. Food systems will be less reliant on animal source foods, less wasteful and with significantly reduced impacts for climate change and biodiversity loss.⁶⁷ Above all, the focus can no longer be on, 'How do we grow and produce more?' but rather must be on, 'What should we be growing and producing and how?', with healthy diets harnessed as a catalyst for more diversified and agroecological production systems. All governments need to make it a priority to develop policies that tackle unhealthy diets and malnutrition in all its forms (reducing the production, distribution and consumption of highly processed sugary, fatty and or salty food and drink products which typically contain little or no whole food), while simultaneously making fresh or minimally processed foods more available, accessible and affordable.

⁶⁵ Crucially, in October 2021, the majority of the European Parliament voted in favour of the Strategy, for which a legislative framework is currently being finalised. The Strategy is making full use of external policy instruments including trade policy, and international partnerships for investment and diplomacy.

⁶⁶ <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s12571-021-01204-5.pdf>

⁶⁷ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34523669/>

While there can be no one-size-fits-all solution, EU programmes are creating opportunities for collaboration, innovation and experience-sharing around country-led policy options and tailored solutions. Above all, policy development processes must be inclusive and transparent, managed in a way that strengthens the agency of disadvantaged groups most severely affected by decisions, while avoiding conflicts of interest. Customised policy support packages may include: strengthening national systems for social protection; unlocking private sector finance to more effectively promote engagement of local food systems actors; fiscal incentives (such as taxes on unhealthy options); nutrition labelling policies; improved communication and education on nutrition for heightened awareness; improving the quality and accessibility of interdisciplinary research and information systems; developing public food procurement policies (for example ensuring that where school meals are provided they are healthy, safe and sustainable); and backing moves to restrict advertising and marketing of heavily processed foods and drinks high in saturated and trans-fats, sugar and salt.

Policy prioritisation should be informed by national food-based dietary guidelines that define context specific healthy and sustainable diets by taking into account social, cultural, economic, ecological and environmental circumstances, while maintaining a commitment to gender transformative approaches. It is through alignment with such guidelines that the diversification of nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems can ensure that more fresh, safe and nutritious food is grown locally, thereby reducing vulnerability to external shocks. However, although over 100 countries have national dietary guidelines, only a handful currently incorporate environmental sustainability targets, and most are minimally connected to agricultural or supply-chain policy. As a result, they have far fewer food system impacts than they could. For example, although it is known that, on average, intake of fruits and vegetables needs to double, agricultural policies rarely favour their production and distribution. Likewise, to ensure that healthy diets are accessible to everyone, policies to reinforce a decent work agenda, living wages and gender equality in the workplace are key.

Latest Developments

Country level: Global Europe programming was concluded for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Americas and the Caribbean countries and regions in December 2021 following the adoption of related country and regional multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs) in which priority areas and specific objectives are defined with partners⁶⁸. ERASMUS+ and Thematic MIPs were also adopted. An initial review of the country MIPs indicates a significant increase in the number of countries being supported by the EU to strengthen the integration of nutrition across multiple sectors. Insights from the MIPs for Liberia, South Sudan, Tajikistan and Nicaragua – countries which have significantly increased the prioritisation of nutrition since the previous programming cycle – are presented here (with a more detailed overview provided in Annex 3). The rich analysis presented in the MIPs confirms that the drivers of malnutrition in these countries are multiple, and include poverty, gender inequality, climate change, environmental degradation and conflict. In the context of new MIPs, programmes relevant for nutrition are already being identified with the nutrition policy marker. A sample selection of new country-level actions for nutrition – in Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Yemen and Haiti – is shown here (again with further details provided in Annex 3). Nutrition will also be a core focus in assisting partner countries with the development and implementation of national food systems transformation

⁶⁸ Each year, the European Union will adopt Annual Action Plans setting out the implementation of these programmes. Both country and regional MIPs are public documents that can be consulted at: https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/global-europe-programming_en

pathways, drawing on the EU's experience with regard to the Farm to Fork agenda. It is estimated that between 2021 and 2024 the EU will provide support to food systems for healthy and sustainable diets in around 70 partner countries.

Regional level: At the regional level too, new Multi-annual Indicative Programmes have also identified nutrition as a vital strategic and cross-cutting objective. For example, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package for Sustainable Food Systems draws on a Team Europe approach in support of multiple mutual objectives, including the promotion of plant proteins in Africa in the region of the Great Green Wall⁶⁹, in order to meet the needs of a fast-growing population with rapidly evolving dietary patterns. In the context of the EU-AU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation and its first priority on “Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture”, the EU is funding several Horizon Europe research and innovation projects on malnutrition and “food cities” to improve regional and local food systems for better access to healthy nutrition in African cities.

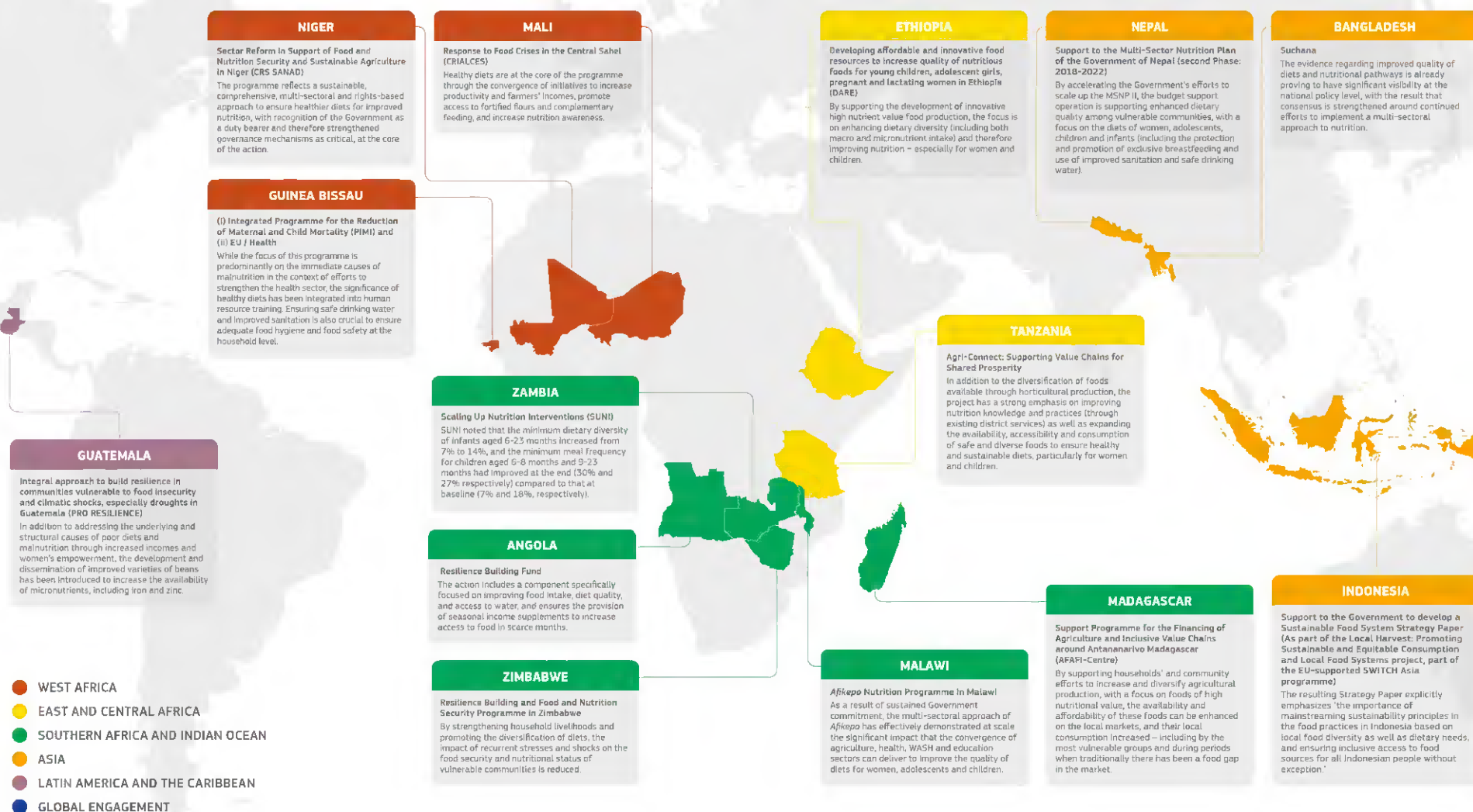
Global level: At the global level, the Food Systems Summit preparatory process led to the emergence of more than 30 multi-stakeholder coalitions⁷⁰ and initiatives for action. Multiple Directorate-Generals (DGs) of the European Commission are already engaging in eight coalitions (Annex 4), including the Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems⁷¹. DG International Partnerships (INTPA) is taking a lead role in both the Zero Hunger and School Meals Coalitions as well as the Coalition for Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, all of which are also highly relevant for healthy and sustainable diets to end malnutrition. Participation in these coalitions will provide opportunities to further advance priorities identified in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, including the integration of healthy and sustainable diets for improved nutrition. The EU engagement will place a strong emphasis on ensuring inclusivity and tackling inequalities, reinforcing links with country-level programming and promoting partnerships with civil society. The continuity of EU support for the global level initiative – the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement – is also confirmed as a particularly strategic example of global advocacy for nutrition.

⁶⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/programmes/growing-great-green-wall-ggw_en

⁷⁰ The coalitions are conceived as the mechanism for ‘operationalising summit outcomes’, mobilising political will, resources and partnerships while enhancing networking – both horizontal and vertical and sharing of best practices. Crucially, the coalitions are envisaged as a vehicle for collaboration at country level around implementation of national pathways.

⁷¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_1971

**FIGURE 8:
CASE STUDIES FOR HEALTHY DIETS**



Section 5: Conclusions

Nutrition dealt yet another blow

Lives and livelihoods around the world suffered as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than two years since it began, the adverse impacts of the crisis continue to evolve. As a result, the precious gains made in advancing human development, including with respect to nutrition – e.g. people’s ability to access healthy diets – are at serious risk of unravelling. Developing countries are still struggling to recover from the severe economic disruption and the collapse of labour markets that have led to dramatic losses of income and a deepening of poverty. The pandemic also disrupted the collection of new data on nutrition; nevertheless, available projections suggest catastrophic ripple effects for the most vulnerable in the poorest and most troubled corners of the world. Therefore, despite the lack of evidence, experts anticipate that the pandemic has had a highly detrimental impact on nutrition across the globe, including a significant increase in child stunting and wasting⁷².

Unfortunately, the onset of 2022 has raised the spectre of yet another global crisis – Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. This humanitarian crisis threatens to exacerbate the unfavourable outlook for nutrition. Russia and Ukraine provide around 30% of global wheat exports, and Russia is also one of the largest producers of fertilisers. As a result, prices of both wheat and fertiliser have soared since the war began. At the time of writing, the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) for April 2022 was 29.8% above its value in April 2021⁷³. Furthermore, rising fuel prices are contributing to higher prices across entire food systems, while the disruption of supply chains and the costs and delays affecting international trade are further adding to the problem. Available data suggests that 45 African and least developed countries import at least a third of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia, with 18 importing more than 50%⁷⁴. The ability to provide effective humanitarian assistance will also be undermined by rising costs. Ukraine alone provides more than half of WFP’s wheat and sunflower oil supply⁷⁵.

While the rising price of food commodities may be a global phenomenon, the impact of the shock is inequitable. As with the pandemic, this latest crisis is hitting the poorest hardest – precisely those families who were already unable to afford the healthy diet required for good nutrition. The ability of national and international social assistance mechanisms, where they exist, and already worn thin during the pandemic, is often diminished. FAO modelling suggests that the number of people suffering from hunger (according to the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises 193 million, and 25% more than a year before) may rise by 8 to 13 million in 2022-23⁷⁶. This is as a result of both Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and multiple protracted crises around the world, and is compounded by the increasing incidence of extreme weather events due to climate change.

2021 – A ground-breaking ‘Year of Nutrition’

⁷² <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00233-9>

⁷³ The FAO Food Price Index is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities. Based on the data released 06/05/22, the 29.8% rise between April 2021 – April 2022 reflects a slight reduction (0.8%) since the all-time high reached in March 2022. <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

⁷⁴ UNSG 14 March 2022. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/node/262376>. Countries importing at least 50% of their wheat from Ukraine include those with an already high prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition such as Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

⁷⁵ <https://www.wfp.org/publications/food-security-implications-ukraine-conflict>

⁷⁶ In 2021-22 there were an estimated 811 million hungry people. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9013en/cb9013en.pdf>

Against the backdrop of a world facing multiple crises and with alarming implications for diets and nutrition, 2021 had already been designated as a year of action on nutrition, a rallying call for players in various sectors – economy, food, social protection, health or education – to work together and accelerate action. As discussed in Section 1, the second half of the year saw an unprecedented series of international events: the UN Food Systems Summit, the UN Biodiversity Conference, the UN Climate Change Summit and the Nutrition for Growth Summit. Together, these events served to heighten global awareness of the urgent need for a far-reaching and transformative paradigm shift in our approach to food systems. The result was a greater recognition that our food systems, and our diets, are central to addressing the tremendous challenges arising from the interaction of biodiversity loss, climate change, zoonotic disease, underlying structural inequalities and conflict, which combine in a global ‘syndemic’⁷⁷ to compound the drivers of chronic poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

The 2022 World Inequality Report⁷⁸ helps to shed light on tackling dietary and nutrition inequalities. With the poorest half of the global population holding just 2% of total wealth and earning 8.5% of total income, too many people are prevented from acquiring healthy and sustainable diets. Childhood malnutrition and women’s disempowerment are strongly interlinked, mediated by inadequate diet, gender inequalities, lower levels of education, poor living standards and poor or no access to adequate health facilities, social protection, clean and safe water, proper sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, addressing large inequalities is essential for tackling climate change⁷⁹.

While the immediate focus on conflict and COVID-19 in addressing drivers of malnutrition is crucial, tackling climate change is part of the long-term strategy in fighting hunger and malnutrition. The latest report from the IPCC finds that the world is nowhere on track to achieve the Paris Agreement targets of keeping global warming below 2 degrees⁸⁰. The report reveals alarming geographical and social inequalities in terms of the impact of climate change⁸¹. It explicitly states that ‘human populations exposed to extreme weather and climate events are at risk of food insecurity with lower diversity in diets, leading to malnutrition and increasing the risk of disease’. Such a prognosis underscores the urgency of fulfilling climate change commitments and supporting the transition to a sustainable food system, as set out in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy. In November 2022, Egypt will host the 27th UN Climate action of the Parties on behalf of Africa - one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the consequences of climate change. This year’s meeting is set to feature innovative solutions and to focus on climate finance and mitigation in order to accelerate global efforts to close the gap between commitments and action this decade. Yet even as the Africa Year of Nutrition gains momentum, and while still grappling with both recovery from the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and mounting consequences of the climate crisis – Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine now threatens to further

⁷⁷ A *syndemic* can be defined as the ‘biological and social interactions’ that serve to exacerbate vulnerability. As pointed out in the Lancet, the SARS-CoV-2 virus, emerging as a result of inter-linked environmental drivers, interacts with an array of non-communicable diseases and it is ‘the syndemic nature of the threat we face that means a more nuanced approach is needed’ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32000-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32000-6/fulltext)

⁷⁸ <https://wir2022.wid.world>

⁷⁹ The top 10% of emitters in the world are responsible for close to 50% of global emissions, while the bottom 50% produce 12% of the total. <https://wir2022.wid.world>

⁸⁰ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/> A key message in the report is that extreme weather events linked to climate change like floods and heatwaves are hitting humans and other species much harder than previous assessments indicated.

⁸¹ Between 2010 and 2020, 15 times more people died from floods, droughts and storms in very vulnerable regions including parts of Africa, South Asia and Central and South America, than in other parts of the world. At the same time, the report recognises that the vulnerability of women, the elderly and children in low-income households to the impacts of climate change on food systems is heightened.

undermine collective efforts to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition across the continent.

Programming for progress

‘Today more than ever we must invest in resilient and sustainable food systems through a resolute multilateral approach to support partner countries’

Commissioner Urpilainen⁸².

As discussed in Section 4, a healthy and sustainable diet is one that upholds the right to food and is sufficient, safe, diverse and proportionate, while ensuring decent work and sustaining our planet’s precious resources. Tackling structural inequalities, as a basic driver of unhealthy diets and malnutrition, not only requires transformative policy change but also must be undertaken in a manner that respects the ‘planetary boundaries’⁸³ within which humanity can safely operate. In aligning the European Green Deal⁸⁴, the Farm to Fork Strategy⁸⁵ and the Biodiversity Strategy⁸⁶, the EU has made clear its intention to promote further sustainable approaches, including agroecology, agroforestry and organic farming, in its international cooperation⁸⁷. Such approaches hold the potential to re-localise economies and generate decent work for inclusive growth while reducing carbon emissions, tackling gender inequalities, building the resilience of livelihoods and landscapes to foster transitions to more sustainable agri-food systems, and crucially, delivering more diverse, healthy and affordable diets for improved nutrition. The challenge of this overarching, holistic and rights-based approach is to embed it in global policy-making processes for change.

Strong leadership is needed to balance power relations and navigate divergent interests at all levels if ambitious commitments are to be translated into action. At the global level and in the light of the dire food security and nutrition situation, the European Commission has seized the opportunity to engage in eight Coalitions of Action or ‘voluntary alliances for collective action’ as a follow-up to the UN Food System Summit. These seek to accelerate the translation of commitments into tangible actions and results. This will be achieved by bringing member countries together with UN agencies, civil society organisations and academic institutions to align, mobilise and support collective action around the 113 national pathways developed as country-owned roadmaps to equitable and sustainable food systems.

The 2021-2024 pledge of the EU and its Member States of providing at least EUR 4.3 billion to support nutrition in partner countries (of which EUR 2.5 billion from the EU) was announced at the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit⁸⁸. It demonstrates the EU-wide commitment to reinforce and sustain the global momentum to scale up efforts to end all

⁸²https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/food-security-commission-steps-support-global-action-transform-food-systems-eight-global_en

⁸³ The term ‘planetary boundaries’ refers to the environmental thresholds within which humanity can survive, develop and thrive for generations to come. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html>

⁸⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

⁸⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/food/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy_en

⁸⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en

⁸⁷ For example, the EU funded DeSIRA initiative supports the agroecological transition of farming systems in Africa, Asia and Latin America, through the lens of action-research projects. There are currently 14 projects ongoing representing a total EU investment of EUR 80 million.

⁸⁸ As announced at the Tokyo N4G Summit, the French government will host the next N4G Summit linked to the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.

forms of malnutrition. As outlined in Section 3, the pledge builds on the achievement of surpassing the earlier target of EUR 3.5 billion (2014-2020) by EUR 835 million. Healthy diets and nutrition already feature in a significant number of country level multi-annual indicative programmes (2021-2027) under at least one priority area. In a growing number of partner countries (see for example the case study on Liberia in Annex 3), supporting efforts to achieve safe and sustainable food systems is translating into Team Europe Initiatives at national level. The initiatives involve the pooling of resources and expertise to accelerate the diversification of food production by small-holders for healthy diets and job-creation – with a strong focus on empowering young people and women. Similarly, at regional level, Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) such as the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package for Sustainable Food Systems (including the development of plant proteins), are supporting Africa's efforts to foster catalytic investments, facilitate innovation, reinforce climate resilience accelerate employment creation and enhance the quality of diets for improved nutrition. Such encouraging trends clearly testify to the EU's determination to continue to fight malnutrition and ensure, moving forward, that nutrition is positioned as a key outcome of food system transformation.

Annex 1: Country dashboard of nutrition-relevant indicators

Country	Inputs	Process/ Activities	Outputs	WHA targets																			
				Stunting					Wasting			Overweight			Exclusive breastfeeding			Low birth weight			Anaemia		
				Rate of stunting reduction (%)		Stunting prevalence in children under 5 years of age (%)		WHA target progress	Wasting prevalence in children under 5 years of age (%)		WHA target progress	Overweight prevalence in children under 5 years of age (%)		WHA target progress	Exclusive breastfeeding of infants < 6 months (%)		WHA target progress	Prevalence of children born low birth weight (%)		WHA target progress	Prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age (%)		WHA target progress
				2021 estimate	Change since 2012 baseline	2012 baseline (as estimated in 2021)	2021 estimate	On/off track	2012 baseline (as estimated in 2021)	2021 estimate	On/off track	2012 baseline (as estimated in 2021)	2021 estimate	On/off track	Data of the closest year to the 2012 baseline	Most recent data	On/off track	2012 baseline	Most recent data (2015)	On/off track	2012 baseline	Most recent data (2019)	On/off track
Alghanistan	107.37	91.53	-	1.9	●	67.1	36.4	on course	9.5	5.1	Some progress	5.3	4.1	On course	43.1	57.5	On course	-	-	No data	37.5	42.6	No progress or worsening
Angola	17.00	8.46	-	2.6	●	20.9	27.8	some progress	8.2	4.9	On course	-	3.4	No data	-	37.4	No data	15.8	15.3	Some progress	45.9	44.5	No progress or worsening
Bangladesh	143.81	98.76	195,007	2.9	●	38.6	29.3	some progress	15.7	9.8	Some progress	1.9	2.4	Off course	64.1	62.6	Some progress	29.0	27.8	Some progress	35.7	36.7	No progress or worsening
Benin	17.50	14.12	-	0.8	●	36.3	32.2	some progress	4.5	5.0	No progress or worsening	1.7	1.9	Off course	32.5	41.4	Some progress	17.2	16.9	Some progress	55.5	55.2	No progress or worsening
Burkina Faso	56.50	65.47	102,488	2.2	●	34.0	24.7	some progress	10.7	8.1	Some progress	0.6	1.6	Off course	38.2	57.9	On course	13.5	13.1	Some progress	53.3	52.5	No progress or worsening
Burundi	42.17	28.32	407,534	0.6	●	56.1	54.2	some progress	6.0	4.8	On course	2.9	2.8	Off course	69.3	71.9	On course	15.5	15.1	Some progress	31.1	38.5	No progress or worsening
Cambodia	7.50	2.96	-	2.9	●	36.9	27.6	some progress	11.0	9.7	No progress or worsening	1.9	2.2	On course	72.8	65.2	No progress or worsening	12.6	12.1	Some progress	46.1	47.1	No progress or worsening
Cameroon	7.38	8.93	-	0.5	●	35.7	31.2	some progress	5.7	4.3	On course	6.5	11.0	Off course	20.0	39.4	On course	12.1	12.0	No progress or worsening	41.2	40.6	No progress or worsening
Chad	229.00	81.91	19,698	1.2	●	38.9	33.4	some progress	16.3	13.9	Some progress	2.8	2.3	Off course	3.2	9.0	Some progress	-	-	No data	49.2	45.4	Some progress
Côte d'Ivoire	-	0.84	-	1.5	●	32.9	24.4	some progress	7.6	6.1	Some progress	3.2	1.5	Off course	11.8	23.1	On course	15.9	15.5	Some progress	52.2	50.9	No progress or worsening
Democratic Republic of the Congo	18.13	21.68	3777	0.8	●	42.6	40.4	some progress	8.1	6.4	Some progress	4.4	3.8	On course	47.3	53.6	On course	11.1	10.8	Some progress	46.4	42.4	Some progress
Djibouti	6.75	3.00	6,814	-0.6	●	32.2	34.0	no progress or worsening	21.5	-	No data	8.1	-	No data	12.4	-	No data	-	-	No data	31.0	32.3	No progress or worsening
Ethiopia	133.07	116.60	71,196	2.3	●	43.4	34.8	some progress	9.8	7.2	Some progress	1.8	2.1	On course	52.0	58.8	Some progress	-	-	No data	22.4	23.9	No progress or worsening
Gambia	17.39	19.16	2,21,136	2.8	●	21.7	16.4	some progress	9.5	5.1	Some progress	1.1	2.1	Off course	46.8	53.6	On course	17.2	16.8	Some progress	56.4	49.5	Some progress
Guatemala	42.25	6.68	-	0.7	●	50.8	45.8	some progress	1.0	0.8	On course	4.9	4.9	On course	49.6	53.2	Some progress	11.2	11.0	Some progress	11.0	7.4	On course
Guinea-Bissau	14.00	16.40	159,269	1.1	●	28.4	26.6	some progress	6.2	7.8	No progress or worsening	1.9	2.2	Off course	52.5	59.4	On course	21.8	21.1	Some progress	49.9	48.1	Some progress
Haiti	66.36	23.84	54,597	2.3	●	23.0	19.2	some progress	5.1	3.7	On course	3.6	3.4	On course	39.3	39.9	No progress or worsening	-	-	No data	47.6	47.7	No progress or worsening
Honduras	26.50	17.02	37,417	3.2	●	23.6	17.6	some progress	1.4	-	No data	5.2	-	No data	30.8	-	No data	11.1	10.9	No progress or worsening	16.6	18.0	No progress or worsening
Kenya	20.59	24.64	520,937	1.9	●	31.4	25.1	some progress	6.3	4.2	On course	5.0	4.1	On course	61.4	-	No data	11.7	11.5	Some progress	28.4	28.7	No progress or worsening
Lao People's Democratic Republic	100.12	34.58	3750	1.7	●	44.1	33.6	some progress	5.9	9.0	No progress or worsening	2.0	3.5	Off course	39.7	44.4	Some progress	17.7	17.3	Some progress	36.3	39.5	No progress or worsening
Madagascar	24.25	12.00	548,647	1.1	●	48.4	42.6	some progress	7.5	6.4	Some progress	1.1	1.4	On course	41.9	50.6	No progress or worsening	17.5	17.1	Some progress	37.5	37.8	No progress or worsening
Malawi	108.00	64.33	8,856	1.8	●	49.2	37.3	some progress	4.0	0.6	On course	9.0	3.8	On course	70.8	59.4	No progress or worsening	14.9	14.5	Some progress	30.6	31.4	No progress or worsening
Mali	22.22	61.73	62,449	2.3	●	28.3	24.0	some progress	10.4	9.3	No progress or worsening	0.8	0.7	Off course	20.2	40.5	On course	-	-	No data	58.2	59.0	No progress or worsening
Mauritania	28.70	22.18	600	3.3	●	24.1	19.7	some progress	11.7	11.5	No progress or worsening	1.2	1.5	Off course	26.7	40.3	On course	-	-	No data	45.1	43.3	Some progress
Mozambique	71.12	45.26	2,908,701	1.5	●	41.2	37.2	some progress	6.1	4.4	On course	7.8	7.0	On course	40.0	41.0	Some progress	14.1	13.8	Some progress	48.8	47.9	No progress or worsening
Myanmar	134.75	30.11	847	2.8	●	33.2	25.2	some progress	7.9	6.7	Some progress	2.6	0.8	On course	23.6	51.2	On course	12.5	12.3	Some progress	39.4	42.1	No progress or worsening
Nepal	61.78	31.05	2,642,864	3.0	●	39.5	30.7	some progress	11.2	12.0	No progress or worsening	1.5	2.6	Off course	69.7	62.1	No progress or worsening	22.6	21.8	Some progress	35.9	35.7	No progress or worsening
Niger	96.38	121.67	292,295	0.5	●	46.5	44.1	some progress	13.4	9.8	Some progress	0.8	1.4	Off course	23.3	21.6	Some progress	-	-	No data	49.1	49.5	No progress or worsening
Nigeria	65.18	62.48	2,824,346	1.1	●	36.2	33.5	some progress	10.2	6.5	Some progress	3.0	1.6	On course	16.9	28.7	Some progress	-	-	No data	54.9	55.1	No progress or worsening
Pakistan	80.12	64.32	-	0.7	●	41.1	39.0	some progress	14.9	7.1	Some progress	6.6	2.5	On course	37.8	47.8	On course	-	-	No data	42.7	41.3	No progress or worsening
Rwanda	58.67	72.36	1,967,828	1.6	●	44.7	35.2	some progress	2.4	1.1	On course	6.0	5.6	On course	83.9	80.9	On course	8.2	7.9	Some progress	18.3	17.2	Some progress
Senegal	31.78	31.61	-	2.2	●	19.0	16.5	some progress	8.7	8.1	No progress or worsening	0.7	2.3	Off course	39.0	40.8	Some progress	18.9	18.5	Some progress	55.9	52.7	Some progress
Sierra Leone	2.25	4.17	-	1.3	●	35.6	28.9	some progress	7.5	5.4	Some progress	1.4	4.5	Off course	31.4	54.0	On course	14.9	14.4	Some progress	47.9	48.4	No progress or worsening
Somalia	21.75	21.42	-	0.3	●	30.8	30.1	no progress or worsening	14.3	-	No data	3.0	-	No data	5.3	33.7	On course	-	-	No data	44.0	43.1	No progress or worsening
Sri Lanka	8.58	5.30	-	2.3	●	15.4	13.5	some progress	21.3	15.1	No progress or worsening	0.6	2.0	On course	75.8	80.9	On course	16.6	15.9	Some progress	33.5	34.6	No progress or worsening
Sudan	49.22	50.31	-	0.0	●	32.2	36.8	no progress or	15.4	16.3	No progress or	1.5	3.0	On course	41.0	-	No data	-	-	No data	36.8	36.5	No progress or

Timor-Leste	16.25	16.67	-	0.3	●	58.2	53.2	worsening no progress or worsening	18.9	9.9	Some progress	5.8	1.6	On course	62.3	65.0	Some progress	-	-	No data	26.8	29.9	worsening No progress or worsening
Uganda	49.85	27.99	-	2.0	●	34.6	28.2	some progress	4.2	3.5	On course	5.8	3.7	On course	62.2	65.5	Some progress	-	-	No data	31.3	32.8	No progress or worsening
United Republic of Tanzania	35.00	15.28	32,019	1.8	●	39.1	31.9	some progress	6.2	3.5	On course	5.1	2.8	Off course	48.8	57.8	On course	10.7	10.5	Some progress	40.3	38.9	Some progress
Yemen	30.50	31.44	828,034	0.4	●	52.1	48.0	no progress or worsening	13.3	16.4	No progress or worsening	1.5	2.5	On course	9.7	-	No data	-	-	No data	61.5	61.5	No progress or worsening
Zambia	31.75	20.31	170,450	1.5	●	49.1	36.0	some progress	6.2	4.2	On course	6.2	5.2	On course	72.0	69.9	No progress or worsening	11.9	11.6	Some progress	30.5	31.5	No progress or worsening
Zimbabwe	49.78	53.73	6,600	0.8	●	35.1	27.0	some progress	3.2	2.9	On course	5.8	2.5	On course	-	41.9	No data	12.8	12.6	No progress or worsening	30.0	28.9	Some progress
Bhutan	-	-	-	2.0	●	32.2	26.7	some progress	5.9	-	No data	7.6	-	No data	48.7	53.2	Some progress	12.0	11.7	Some progress	39.8	38.6	No progress or worsening
Central African Republic	41.25	23.94	-	0.5	●	41.0	38.6	some progress	7.4	5.4	Some progress	2.0	3.2	On course	33.0	36.2	Some progress	14.8	14.5	Some progress	47.9	46.8	No progress or worsening
Comoros	0.25	0.10	-	1.2	●	33.5	30.0	some progress	11.2	-	No data	10.6	-	No data	11.4	-	No data	24.2	23.7	Some progress	32.8	33.8	No progress or worsening
Congo Republic (Brazzaville)	-	-	-	3.7	●	24.4	17.1	some progress	6.0	8.2	No progress or worsening	3.5	5.9	On course	20.2	32.9	On course	11.8	11.6	Some progress	53.1	48.8	Some progress
Cuba	-	0.33	-	1.8	-	-	6.8	No data	-	2.0	No data	-	10.3	No data	48.6	40.7	No progress or worsening	5.2	5.3	No progress or worsening	20.2	19.3	Some progress
Eritrea	-	0.30	-	1.2	●	45.6	41.0	some progress	14.6	-	No data	2.1	-	No data	68.7	-	No data	-	-	No data	36.2	37.0	No progress or worsening
Eswatini	0.50	0.69	-	2.2	●	32.0	23.8	some progress	0.8	2.0	On course	10.7	9.0	On course	43.8	63.8	On course	10.5	10.3	Some progress	30.0	30.7	No progress or worsening
Ghana	-	0.18	-	3.4	●	23.9	16.2	some progress	6.2	6.8	Some progress	2.6	1.4	Off course	45.7	42.9	No progress or worsening	14.5	14.2	Some progress	44.2	35.4	Some progress
Guinea	7.79	13.82	391	0.4	●	33.7	31.6	no progress or worsening	10.0	9.2	No progress or worsening	3.8	5.6	Off course	20.4	33.4	On course	-	-	No data	50.9	48.0	Some progress
Indonesia	-	-	-	1.5	●	34.3	30.4	some progress	13.5	10.2	Some progress	11.5	8.0	Off course	40.9	50.7	On course	10.2	10.0	Some progress	27.0	31.2	No progress or worsening
Iraq	-	-	-	7.7	●	21.7	9.9	on course	6.5	3.0	On course	11.4	6.1	On course	19.4	25.8	Some progress	-	-	No data	29.8	28.6	Some progress
Liberia	8.25	5.56	-	2.3	●	37.3	28.1	some progress	5.6	3.4	On course	3.2	4.4	Off course	54.6	55.2	No progress or worsening	-	-	No data	43.6	42.6	No progress or worsening
Namibia	0.50	1.52	-	1.9	●	26.4	20.4	some progress	7.1	-	No data	4.0	-	No data	48.3	-	No data	15.7	15.5	No progress or worsening	24.7	25.2	No progress or worsening
Nicaragua	7.00	3.81	132,774	5.6	●	17.3	10.3	on course	2.2	-	No data	8.3	-	No data	31.7	-	No data	10.8	10.7	No progress or worsening	13.3	15.7	No progress or worsening
Pacific Islands*	-	-	-	-1.1	●	19.3	25.7	no progress or worsening	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data
Papua New Guinea	22.00	4.21	-	-2.0	●	50.4	60.3	no progress or worsening	14.1	-	No data	13.7	-	No data	-	59.7	No data	-	-	No data	33.4	34.4	No progress or worsening
South Sudan	29.34	27.08	22,435	3.6	●	29.1	20.9	some progress	22.7	-	No data	6.0	-	No data	44.5	-	No data	-	-	No data	34.7	35.6	No progress or worsening
Tajikistan	8.75	7.97	-	4.7	●	27.9	16.1	on course	9.9	5.6	Some progress	6.7	3.3	On course	32.6	35.8	Some progress	5.7	5.6	Some progress	31.0	35.2	No progress or worsening
Uzbekistan	-	0.61	-	1.8	-	-	10.0	No data	-	1.8	On course	-	4.6	No data	-	49.5	No data	5.4	5.3	No progress or worsening	28.7	24.8	Some progress
Cook Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data
Fiji	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	31.5	32.0	No progress or worsening
Kiribati	-	-	-	1.8	-	-	14.4	No data	-	3.5	No data	-	2.1	No data	66.4	63.6	No progress or worsening	-	-	No data	31.8	32.6	No progress or worsening
Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	-	3.5	No data	-	4.1	No data	27.3	43.1	No data	-	-	No data	29.7	30.6	No progress or worsening
Micronesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	22.7	25.0	No progress or worsening
Nauru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	1.0	-	No data	2.8	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data
Niue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data
Palau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data
Samoa	-	-	-	-8.3	-	-	8.6	No data	3.9	3.1	On course	5.3	8.7	On course	51.3	70.3	On course	-	-	No data	24.5	26.8	No progress or worsening
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	0.4	●	28.8	30.9	no progress or worsening	4.3	8.5	Off course	2.5	4.5	Off course	73.7	76.2	On course	-	-	No data	38.4	37.7	No progress or worsening
Tonga	-	-	-	17.0	●	8.1	1.5	on course	5.2	1.1	On course	17.3	11.2	On course	52.2	39.6	No progress or worsening	-	-	No data	27.2	28.5	No progress or worsening
Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data	34.7	-	No data	-	-	No data	-	-	No data
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-2.4	●	23.9	34.9	no progress or worsening	5.9	4.7	On course	4.7	4.9	On course	72.6	-	No data	11.0	10.9	No progress or worsening	24.1	28.5	No progress or worsening

* Due to data availability Pacific Islands only include Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

Previous cycle priority countries (n=42)

Added NDICI green countries (total n=55)

Pacific Islands (n=13)




Dashboard legend

For the indicators in the dashboard, two colour-coded analyses of progress are presented:

1. Firstly, cell colours show how the latest data fits according to the thresholds established for the 2012 baselines for each indicator. These baseline thresholds divided the countries into three groups of equal size, so that for all indicators, 33% of countries fell into the 'best' green category; 33% were in the 'middle' amber category; and 33% in the 'worst' red category. The latest data was then compared to these baseline thresholds to assess progress (described as 'shifts' in the analysis below).

Green: data falls within the top of the 2012 groups
Orange: data falls within the middle of the 2012 groups
Red: data falls within the bottom of the 2012 groups

2. Secondly, a circular traffic light is used to show whether the indicator has improved (green), worsened (red), or remains unchanged (amber), compared to its baseline value

	There has been an improvement since the baseline
	There has been no or limited improvement since the baseline
	There has been a deterioration since the baseline

Note: The amber signal denotes no or 'limited' change, calculated by subtracting the minimum value from the maximum value for each indicator, and then dividing by the number of countries. This provides a range around the zero for this indicator.

Annex 2: Case Studies

WEST AFRICA

PROFILE	
Country: NIGER	Title: Sector Reform in Support of Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Niger (CRS SANAD)
Budget: EUR 192 million budget support and EUR 11 million technical assistance.	Implementation: 2016-2020 Government of Niger with Technical Assistance provided through service contract.
OBJECTIVES	
To support the efforts of the Government to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development through sectoral reforms, improved public service delivery and reduction of both geographical and gender disparities.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Improved public finance practices in key sectors for food and nutrition security: The action supported relevant ministries and agencies in implementing structural reforms aimed at improving the efficiency and transparency of public finance management.	Enhanced multisectoral governance of food and nutrition security: Support to relevant ministries in implementing institutional and organisational reforms, enhanced governance mechanisms across sectors and strengthened coordination around nutrition policy design and programming.
Increased public investment in sectors, contributing to better nutrition: The resulting political dialogue between the EU and the Government, as well as the additional financial resources provided directly to the treasury, served to secure an increase of public expenditure in key sectors relating to food and nutrition security.	Strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems in sectors relating to food and nutrition security: the project supported the government in designing and deploying various information systems to track both public investment and nutrition-related outcomes in priority sectors as well as generating evidence to further guide policy design and programming.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
The programme reflects a sustainable, comprehensive, multi-sectoral and rights-based approach to ensure healthier diets for improved nutrition, with recognition of the government as a duty bearer and therefore strengthened governance mechanisms as critical, at the core of the action.	

PROFILE	
Country: GUINEA-BISSAU	Titles: (i) Integrated Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PIMI) and (ii) EU / Health
Budget: EUR 10.36 million (of which EUR 4.8 million for PIMI and EUR 5.56 million for EU/Health)	Implementation: UNICEF (PIMI: 2017-2021, EU/Health: 2016-2020)
OBJECTIVE	
To support the Government in reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality and harness a humanitarian-development nexus approach to combine the treatment of severely acute malnourished children together with the strengthening of service delivery in health, nutrition and WASH sectors.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Essential family practices: Community Health Workers have been trained and capacities strengthened to promote family care practices within communities and ensure early diagnosis and management of childhood illness and malnutrition. During the project implementation period, more than 230 000 children have been visited by Community Health Workers, screened for malnutrition, and received vitamin A supplementation as required.	Quality nutrition services for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women: the project supported the strengthening of service delivery from health centres including support to systems for procuring and distributing anthropometric equipment, drugs and therapeutic products to detect and treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM). During project implementation period, close to 5 000 children affected by SAM, and therefore with high risk of mortality, were referred and admitted.
WASH infrastructure: the project supported the construction and rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure in communities and in health centres – including water points, filter systems and latrines. Additional support was provided to facilitate the supply of spare parts and establish maintenance services to ensure sustainability.	
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
While the focus of this programme is predominantly on the immediate causes of malnutrition in the context of efforts to strengthen the health sector, the significance of healthy diets has been integrated into human resource training. Ensuring clean and safe drinking water and improved sanitation is also crucial to ensure adequate food hygiene and food safety at the household level.	

PROFILE	
Country: MALI	Title: Response to Food Crises in the Central Sahel (CRIALCES)
Budget: EUR 20 million (+ an additional EUR 1 million from WFP)	Implementation: 2020-2024 World Food Programme
OBJECTIVE	
The programme is part of a multi-country initiative also being implemented in Burkina Faso and Niger to respond to the food and nutrition crisis taking place in the Sahel region. In Mali, it supports the strengthening of local food systems to increase the production and consumption of healthy food and improve the resilience of vulnerable communities to external shocks.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
The programme is increasing the availability of nutritious food: around 50 farmers' groups and production units of infant flours are being supported with equipment, training and technical mentoring to boost productivity and market access.	The programme is strengthening the legal and regulatory frameworks affecting the production of fortified food products: in particular it is supporting national standards bodies to develop norms and effectively regulate the production and sales of fortified flours as well as supporting production units to obtain necessary certification.
Complementary feeding for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers: the programme is facilitating access to complementary feeding for almost 19 000 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers using a voucher-based transfer programme.	Increase demand for nutritious food: 240 000 people are being reached with behaviour change communication aimed at increasing nutrition awareness, generating demand for healthy diets and promoting nutrition-sensitive practices.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
Healthy diets are at the core of the programme through the convergence of initiatives to increase productivity and farmers' incomes, promote access to fortified flours and complementary feeding, and increase nutrition awareness	

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

PROFILE	
Country: TANZANIA	Title: Agri-connect: Supporting value chains for shared prosperity
Budget : EUR 100 million (EU contribution)	Implementation: 2018-2023 Government of the Republic of Tanzania (Budget Support)
OBJECTIVE	
The central objective of the budget support programme is to promote productivity, commercialisation and competitiveness in agriculture (in particular, in the tea, coffee and horticultural sectors) with a view to contribute to inclusive economic growth, create jobs and increase food and nutrition security.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Country-led food system analysis led to the identification of opportunities to develop horticultural value chains as a key priority: The horticulture sector predominantly engages women and youth (in rural and peri-urban areas) and has good potential to generate economic growth at production level and to increase demand for a diverse range of nutritious foods across the population.	The budget support modality accelerates national efforts to scale up support to farming communities: As many as 100 000 small-scale farmers are benefiting from training. This includes 50 000 small-scale farmers and their households (on the mainland and in Zanzibar) being specifically targeted through investments in the horticulture value-chain with improved access to finance, inputs and marketing. The establishment of an online system is strengthening the linkage between producers and consumers.
Capitalising on the strong links between gender equality, women's empowerment and improved diets and nutrition: Women represent 75% of farmers in Tanzania and with effective support have a crucial role to play in the development of the rural economy and the expansion of sustainable and climate-smart agriculture.	Support to rural households includes home gardening and basic nutrition awareness: Topics such as the importance of good feeding practices, healthy diets and essential hygiene are integrated into the support provided, as well as a national awareness campaign fostering behaviour change for healthier diets and more resilient food systems through national media, schools, villages and vendors.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
In addition to the diversification of foods available through horticultural production, there is a strong emphasis on improving nutrition knowledge and practices (through existing district services) as well as expanding the availability, accessibility and consumption of safe and diverse foods to ensure healthy and sustainable diets particularly for women and children.	

PROFILE	
Country: ETHIOPIA	Title: Developing affordable and innovative food resources to increase quality of nutritious foods for young children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women in Ethiopia (DARE)
Budget : EU contribution EUR 2 million ⁸⁹	Implementation: 2020-2021. UNICEF in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Organization for Social Science Research in East & Southern Africa (OSSREA) and Addis Ababa University (AAU)
OBJECTIVE	
To develop local, accessible and affordable food solutions for young children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women to increase dietary diversity through financially viable private sector collaboration and to reduce reliance on public funding.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Building on food system analysis to identify opportunities to enhance dietary diversity: On the basis of an analysis of food systems and nutrition in Ethiopia, the research project set out to explore strategies for the commercialisation of affordable foods (egg powder, papaya powder), to improve household dietary diversity. It is also anticipated that the products can be made available to local communities via the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)	Harnessing research into nutritional value and processing methods to identify cost effective and feasible options for production and distribution: The focus was on the nutrient value of complementary feeding (e.g. egg powder) of children 6-23 months old as well as cost efficiency and ease of transportation. In the case of egg powder, different drying methods were tested and evaluated based on considerations of nutritional quality, acceptability and the shelf life of the various egg powders produced. Two local private companies have been selected to take forward production.
Collaborative partnerships with national universities developed to support private sector uptake. In collaboration with the AAU, experimental activities on papaya drying prototypes have been conducted by three private companies to assess the characteristics of dried papaya, applying different technologies, followed by a nutrient analysis and shelf-life stability test.	Undertaking research into enhancing the nutritional content of the Ethiopian traditional bread injera: Research is also ongoing with respect to enhancing the folate concentration in <i>injera</i> through a novel microbial strain (improved yeast), but this is still to be advanced.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
By supporting the development of innovative high nutrient value food products, the focus is on enhancing dietary diversity (including both macro and micronutrient intake) and therefore improving nutrition - especially for women and children	

⁸⁹ Funded from the broader DeSIRA initiative (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) which supports initiatives for research and innovation regarding the transformation of agri-food systems including strengthening research capacities and governance and involving key actors at national, regional, continental and global levels.

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN

PROFILE	
Country: ZAMBIA	Title: Scaling Up Nutrition Interventions (SUNI)
Budget: EUR 1 million (EU contribution, out of total EUR 1.33 million)	Implementation: 2016-2020 CARE Zambia, Program Against Malnutrition (PAM).
OBJECTIVE	
To contribute to the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition by supporting the Government of Zambia through the scale up of a multisectoral approach in Choma and Kalomo districts of Southern province.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Alignment with national policies and plans to improve the enabling environment for healthier diets and nutrition: SUNI aligns with several other EU-supported projects that back the Government of Zambia's priorities for Scaling Up Nutrition, in the context of the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan (2017-2021), 7 th National Development Plan and with coordination by the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC).	Stronger vertical coordination and strengthened capacity of subnational nutrition coordination committees and community structures: By engaging key government sectors (including agriculture, livestock and fisheries, education, health, community development) at national and district levels, the initiatives leveraged existing structures and supported district and ward nutrition coordinating committees in Southern Province.
Applying a common multisectoral approach to improve diets and nutrition outcomes: With emphasis on greater convergence of key sectors (sustainable agriculture, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene) the initiatives have promoted the production, preparation and consumption of diverse foods. Although the drought in 2018-2019 hampered crop diversification and food access, thereby affecting dietary scores, nevertheless positive changes in nutrition-related knowledge and awareness have been reported.	District Nutrition Coordination Committees supported to develop annual workplans, in line with the national First 1 000 Most Critical Days Programme (MCDP II) strategic objectives and goals. Agriculture extension officers' capacities in nutrition-sensitive agriculture-conservation farming systems, crop diversification and kitchen gardens were strengthened. Health staff were supported in to deliver more effective maternal and young child nutrition interventions. Working through existing systems (community and government) resulted in enhanced sustained nutrition capacities at multiple levels.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
SUNI noted that the minimum dietary diversity of infants aged 6-23 months increased from 7% to 14%, and the minimum meal frequency for children aged 6-8 months and 9-23 months had improved at the end (30% and 27% respectively) compared to that at baseline (7% and 18%, respectively).	

PROFILE	
Country: ZIMBABWE	Title: Resilience Building Fund
Budget: EU contribution EUR 40 million (out of total EUR 80 million)	Implementation: 2015-2022 UNDP and UNICEF
OBJECTIVE	
The focus of this action is to contribute to the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) and thereby contribute to the increased capacity of communities to protect development gains in the face of recurrent shocks and stresses, enabling them to contribute to the economic development of Zimbabwe.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
The ZRBF supported one million direct beneficiaries in 18 (of the 59) districts of Zimbabwe: The ZRBF has proved especially effective at promoting the adoption of nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices as well as scaling up nutrition education through extension services to improve dietary practices and advocating for nutrition-sensitive resilience measures for the most vulnerable households.	Absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities of at-risk communities increased and improved. The establishment of a Multi Donor Fund supported a range of partners to come together around the Resilience Framework and agree on principles to improve adaptive, absorptive and transformative capacities of the targeted communities
Linking food and agricultural interventions with social protection: Timely and cost-effective response to shocks have been rolled out via social protection measures including the establishment of a risk financing mechanism (Crisis Modifier) to provide appropriate, predictable, coordinated and timely response to shocks to benefitting communities, from a resilience perspective.	Application of evidence in policy making for resilience increased: This has been achieved by setting up an independent base of evidence for programme targeting and policy making (including M&E) and promoting capacity assessment and building of central and local government partners to improve application of evidence. A key element involves support to the development of a national policy on small grains with important outcomes for nutrition and climate change within the agriculture sector.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
By strengthening household livelihoods and promoting the diversification of diets, the impact of recurrent stresses and shocks on the food security and nutritional status of vulnerable communities is reduced	

PROFILE	
Country: ANGOLA	Title: Strengthening Resilience and Food and Nutrition Security in Angola (FRESAN)
Budget: EUR 65 million	Implementation: 2018-2025, delegated cooperation with Portugal and grants to FAO, UNDP, NGOs and a research consortium
OBJECTIVE	
The programme aims to contribute to the reduction of hunger, poverty and vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity in the provinces of Angola most affected by climate change and undernutrition, namely Cunene, Huila and Namibe.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
<p>In addition to tracking the reduction of child stunting, improvements in women's diet are also being closely monitored: Baseline indicators showed that less than half of all women (45%) reach even a minimum level of dietary diversity, with the proportion as low as 16% in one province. The minimum dietary diversity for women (MDD-W) indicator will be assessed again midway through and at the end of the programme. Operational research (including a randomised controlled trial) will provide robust evidence regarding the relative cost-effectiveness of health promotion, cash transfers and nutrient supplements.</p>	<p>Supporting the diverse production of nutritious foods and applying agro-ecological practices in rural drought-affected areas. Food and nutritional emergencies are recurrent in southern Angola, devastating both crops, livestock and livelihoods as is the case with the current drought. Most families survive on a poor, staple-food diet. In response to these challenges, the focus of the action is to support the diversification of food production and agro-ecological practices in line with strategies for nutrition-sensitive agriculture.</p>
<p>In strengthening the knowledge and capacity of smallholder farmers, special attention is paid to women's empowerment: An equitable gender balance is ensured by introducing resilient agricultural practices at the level of Farmers Field Schools (in 128 communities across three provinces). Commercialisation of agricultural products and dissemination and replication of resilient agricultural practices in family plots are at the initial stage.</p>	<p>A key component of the action is to accelerate progress on nutrition via social transfers together with nutrition education: This facilitates the convergence of the agriculture, health and social protection sectors, alongside the integration of nutrition in the training of community development and health workers. Social transfers, including cash for work, are provided through schemes that strengthen water harvesting and irrigation infrastructure and improve rural access to water.</p>
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
The action includes a component specifically focused on improving food intake, diet quality and access to water and ensures the provision of seasonal income supplements to increase access to food in scarce months.	

PROFILE	
Country: MADAGASGAR	Title: Support Programme for the Financing of Agriculture and Inclusive Value Chains around Antananarivo Madagascar (AFAFI-Centre)
Budget: EUR 12 million	Implementation: 2020-2025. Government of the Republic of Madagascar together with various NGOs (grants) and contracted experts (technical assistance).
OBJECTIVE	
The programme's objective is to sustainably increase the incomes of rural households together with improving their food security and nutritional status with a particular focus on women and children as well as on preserving the natural environment in the peri-urban area of Antananarivo.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
The programme addresses some of the main underlying causes of malnutrition in Madagascar: These include chronic rural poverty and livelihood insecurity as a result of challenges faced by family farms and marketing. Interventions aim to strengthen sustainable agricultural production of quality products (addressed by promoting agroecology and participatory guarantee schemes) and the quality and diversity of household diets (with a focus on women and children) and to raise income and women's empowerment as well as nutrition awareness.	A gender transformative approach has been adopted for the empowerment of women: Despite women's active role in the agricultural work force, there are significant gender inequalities with respect to their access to productive resources and services – including land, credit, technology, irrigation, knowledge and extension. The programme therefore seeks to ensure a meaningful and equitable participation of women in all project activities as well as within farmers' organisations – especially management and leadership bodies.
The impact assessment study will ensure robust evidence regarding the tangible effects of the various actions on the lives of women and children in particular: The study includes a control group and incorporates crucial indicators for measuring the changes in the quality of diet for women and young children as well as an indicator for quantifying the extent of women's empowerment.	The integration of nutrition as a cross-cutting issue of central relevance for all sectoral components of the programme: This aspect is overseen and supported by technical assistance for the implementation of AFAFI Centre, for example through the provision of technical notes and efforts to ensure a coherent and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to harmonise all stakeholder activities.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
By supporting household and community efforts to increase and diversify agricultural production, with a focus on foods of high nutritional value, the availability and affordability of these foods can be enhanced on the local markets and their local consumption increased – including by the most vulnerable groups and during periods where traditionally there has been a food gap in the market.	

PROFILE	
Country: MALAWI	Title: ‘Afikepo’ Nutrition Programme in Malawi
Budget: EU contribution EUR 86 million (out of EUR 95 million)	Implementation: 2017-2025. Government of the Republic of Malawi, Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA), FAO (with UNICEF), WFP, GIZ and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) organisations. (Save the Children, Civil Society Agriculture Network and Institute of Development Studies (UK)).
OBJECTIVE	
Afikepo (‘let the children develop to their full potential’ in Chichewa language) is a multi-sectoral initiative across 14 districts with three specific objectives: (i) to increase and diversify dietary intake of safe and nutritious foods; (ii) to increase nutrition knowledge and awareness and hygiene practices; and (iii) to strengthen multi-sectoral nutrition governance.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
District National Coordination Committees supported to plan and monitor all nutrition-related interventions and interact with community-level structures: Afikepo has helped establish over 6 000 community-outreach groups as well as supporting extension services for nutrition-sensitive agriculture, integrated homestead farming and maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN). Over 4 000 care promoters and over 2 000 extension workers have been trained and close to 3 000 nutrition learning centres established.	Application of Malawi’s SUN Nutrition Education & Communications package through community and digital media platforms: The focus is on achieving improved dietary quality among children aged 6-23 months, adolescent girls and women of childbearing age. There is also a strong focus on engaging adolescent girls in various nutrition-sensitive agriculture and WASH activities (over 370 000 have so far benefited), for which specific training materials have been developed with government at district level.
The provision of school meals has successfully targeted 149 schools benefiting over 160 000 pupils and nearly 8 000 pre-schoolers. During the COVID-19 pandemic (when schools were closed), school meals were substituted as take-home rations as a measure of social transfer. Investment in WASH awareness and infrastructure in schools has helped significantly to enhance school health and reduce the spread of the pandemic.	Strengthening of food and nutrition information systems and generating evidence on the impact of interventions. Since its launch, the Afikepo programme has registered improvements across key child, adolescent and maternal nutrition indicators between 2018-2021: the exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) rate has increased from 61% to 77%; the minimum acceptable diet (MAD) among children aged 6-23 months from 15% to 27%; and the minimum dietary diversity for women (MDD-W) from 30.4% to 46.5% and specifically for adolescents from 32.2% to 46.8%.

CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

As a result of sustained government commitment, the multi-sectoral approach of Afikepo has effectively demonstrated at scale the significant impact that the convergence of agriculture, health, WASH and education sectors can deliver in terms of improving the quality of diets for women, adolescents and children.

ASIA

PROFILE	
Country: NEPAL	Title: Support to the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan of the Government of Nepal (second Phase: 2018-2022) (MSNP II)
Budget: EUR 20 million (with an additional EUR 3 million for complementary measures)	Implementation: 2020-2022. Government of Nepal (with additional complementary measures and embedded technical support provided by UNICEF)
OBJECTIVE	
The vision of MSNP II centres on reducing malnutrition so that it no longer impedes people's potential and performance towards enhanced human capital and overall socioeconomic development.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Budget support has enabled the Government of Nepal to scale up the MSNP to 28 new districts: 58 out of 77 districts are now covered (589 out of 753 municipalities) and nutrition interventions are now being implemented in all 7 provinces of the country. Advocacy for a nutrition budget code is also ongoing in the context of the action.	MSNP II rollout has benefited from support to local governance and coordination mechanisms: A key focus has been on establishing Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees at local level to coordinate an effective multi-sectoral approach.
Policy dialogue has facilitated the identification of priority interventions and national targets to release funds: Performance indicators included targets related to ensuring the completion of integrated nutrition plans at local level, women's groups and committees receiving grants for income generating activities, the identification and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, the provision of child grants to families with children under five and the provision of clean and safe drinking water in schools.	Nutrition indicators for stunting and wasting highlight relative progress in the districts where sustained EU support has been provided: The budget support builds on a prior EU-supported initiative implemented by UNICEF in support of the government's MSNP I. Nepal is currently on track to achieve the international target for stunting reduction. While the target for wasting is off track, data suggests that the situation in intervention areas is better than the national average, thus underscoring the significance of completing and consolidating the process of scaling up.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
By accelerating the Government's efforts to scale up the MSNP II, the budget support operation is supporting enhanced dietary quality among vulnerable communities, with a focus on the diets of women, adolescents, children and infants (including the protection	

and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and use of improved sanitation and clean and safe drinking water).

PROFILE	
Country: BANGLADESH	Title: Suchana
Budget: EUR 53.8 million programme (jointly supported by the EU and UK Aid)	Implementation: 2016-2022. A consortium of national and international NGOs led by Save the Children.
OBJECTIVE	
<p>The aim of the programme is to significantly reduce the incidence of stunting in children under two in two districts of Sylhet Division (with the highest stunting and wasting prevalence in Bangladesh). The programme's multi-sectoral approach focuses on tackling undernutrition within the critical 1 000 days from conception until children are 2 years old.</p>	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
<p>The recent results of an impact assessment (2020) confirm significant improvement, even when compared to the control group. Suchana has been designed to boost knowledge and evidence and so promote commitment and momentum for change. Increased household income and savings led to the halving of severe household food insecurity, while women's dietary diversity has almost doubled. The rate of exclusive breastfeeding has increased by more than 20% and the number of children aged 6-23 months getting a minimally acceptable diet has more than tripled.</p>	<p>The central focus of the programme is on strengthening national systems to address the root cause of malnutrition: Targets include livelihood diversification and increased income for 1.3 million people, as well as empowering 68 000 adolescent girls to extend school attendance, while delivering improved nutrition services to 250 000 poor households. To ensure that nutritionally vulnerable households and individuals are better able to absorb climatic, health and economic shocks, a key component of the programme focuses on increasing access to government social protection schemes, including maternity allowance.</p>
<p>The programme's multi-sectoral approach means working closely with key stakeholders to strengthen the convergence and effectiveness of delivery systems and improve people's access to key nutrition-related services: This in turn leads to directly empowering women and men through support to income-generating activities, homestead gardening and awareness about health and nutrition. At the same time, Suchana is harnessing evidence of progress to catalyse support from government and other stakeholders to scale up a multi-sectoral approach and improve</p>	<p>Rights-based, gender-transformative and climate-sensitive approaches are central. Suchana advances women's empowerment by supporting women to establish village savings and loan groups to strengthen their decision-making in the household. At the same time, men's participation in education and counselling sessions on maternal and child nutrition is promoted. Both women and men are assisted in adopting climate-resilient livelihoods and disaster-preparedness practices to increase resilience to shocks and stresses. Interventions include production diversification, eco-friendly</p>

nutrition governance across the country.	cropping patterns and climate-smart cultivation techniques.
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CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

The evidence generated regarding improved quality of diets and nutritional pathways is already proving to have significant visibility at the level of national policy, with the result that consensus around continued efforts to implement a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition is being strengthened.

PROFILE

Country: INDONESIA	Title: Support to the Government to develop a Sustainable Food System Strategy Paper (as part of the ‘Local Harvest: Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Consumption and Local Food System’ project (in turn a component of the broader EU-supported SWITCH Asia programme))
Budget: EUR 2 million (Total for SWITCH-Asia EUR 300 million in 2007-2020)	Implementation: 2019. A government-led multi-stakeholder platform within the framework of the two projects implemented by Hivos and its partners - European Union (EU)-supported Switch Asia Local Harvest project and Dutch Government-supported Sustainable Diets for All (SD4ALL).

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the much larger SWITCH Asia programme is to promote sustainable consumption and production. The ‘Local Harvest: Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Consumption and Local Food System’ project supports Indonesia with sustainable food security and sovereignty to advance community welfare. As part of this project support was provided to the government to develop a Sustainable Food System Strategy Paper.

INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Strategy Paper was established through a participatory, multi-stakeholder process including representatives of various government agencies, business actors, academics, media, and civil society organisations, which collaborate in a multi-stakeholder platform for Indonesia’s Sustainable Food System. The initiative aims to strengthen implementation of a food planning process to achieve indicators of the Desirable Dietary Pattern based on national standards for diversity.	Optimising the use of local food genetic resources and ensuring the availability of land and water for food. Indonesia has 77 types of carbohydrate-source food plants but has primarily focused on growing rice and corn. Likewise, it has 26 types of beans but has primarily focused on cultivating soybean. This situation has to be radically changed and the Strategy sets out a roadmap for the optimisation of food diversity, understood to be crucial for food security and good nutrition.
The Strategy recommends that each district/city in Indonesia sets a ‘basic need’ target for food: the target is derived from the diversity recommended by the ‘Fill my plate locally’ (‘My Plate’ initiative of the Government of Indonesia). On the basis of this target, policies and programmes can be prioritised to ensure adequate availability and affordability across various food	Increasing awareness and making sure that sustainable food consumption is a priority for every citizen: Another key message in the Strategy arises from recognition that consumption patterns, including food, are largely determined by perception and lifestyle. Thus, a massive promotion is required to effect a transformative change in values, attitudes,

groups.	beliefs and behaviours around food.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
The resulting Strategy Paper explicitly emphasises ‘the importance of mainstreaming sustainability principles in the food practices in Indonesia based on local food diversity as well as dietary needs, and ensuring inclusive access to food sources for all Indonesian people without exception’.	

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

PROFILE	
Country: Guatemala	Title: Integral approach to build resilience in communities vulnerable to food insecurity and climatic shocks, especially droughts, in Guatemala (PRO RESILIENCE)
Budget: EUR 17 million (of which EUR 15 million EU contribution)	Implementation: 2020-2025, World Food Programme
OBJECTIVE	
In alignment with the Presidential National Nutrition Strategy, the programme aims to improve the food security and nutritional status, especially of women and children, in the north-eastern ‘dry corridor’ of Guatemala. This will be achieved through efforts to increase household incomes and the adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient methods for food production.	
INSIGHTS	and ACHIEVEMENTS
The programme is part of a coordinated approach with other EU-funded food security and nutrition programmes which are implemented by PAHO (EUR 20 million, health) and UNICEF (EUR 15 million, education).	60 beneficiary communities developed seasonal livelihood plans (SLP) , a multiyear plan for resilience-building activities tailored to the needs and opportunities of each community. Creation of assets in agriculture, community infrastructure and environmental protection has started.
Coordination includes 4 key areas: Information systems, behavioural change, capacity building of local stakeholders and governance in food and nutrition security.	6 000 families received the first of six cash transfers of EUR 110. These transfers are paid out half-yearly through the national banking system for implementation of the SLPs.
The baseline study of 2021 contains indicators relevant for healthy diets and nutrition e.g. complementary feeding among infants and young children.	5 800 beneficiary families received bio-fortified seeds and relevant training to cultivate beans on their land.
Women are disproportionately burdened with domestic work and childcare, including meal preparation, while men often make the decisions about which foods to purchase.	4 500 smallholders (2022) covered by micro-insurance to provide a protection in case of severe droughts or excess rain (2021: 1 017 smallholders).
Around half of all households spend more than 65% of their entire income on food.	450 young women empowered through training to increase work opportunities and

	prevent early childbearing.
Frequency of meals is still too low – 15% of children aged 9-23 months were only having 2 meals a day.	A strong monitoring and evaluation system generates robust evidence on what works.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
In addition to addressing the underlying and structural causes of poor diets and malnutrition through increased incomes, social behaviour change and women's empowerment, seeds of improved varieties of beans have been distributed to increase the availability of micronutrients, including iron and zinc.	

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

PROFILE	
Title: Strengthening National Nutrition Information Systems (EC-NIS)	
Budget: EUR 10.2 million (of which the EU contributes EUR 7.9 million)	Implementation: 2020-2024. Implementation by a technical working group at the Ministries of Health (MoH) with technical and financial support from WHO and UNICEF country teams.
OBJECTIVE	
The EC-NIS project aims to support countries by strengthening the national nutrition information systems, including administrative data on nutrition gathered through routine health services. The action is taking place in 5 countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Uganda and Zambia.	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Assessments of national nutrition information systems: This has now been completed in all 5 countries. Refinement of data collection tools is underway, configuring updates in national Department of Health Information System platforms (DHIS2) and developing guidelines on nutrition data management.	Training packages developed in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Zambia: WHO-UNICEF country teams under MoH leadership have developed health management information systems training packages for nutrition and have started building human resource capacity for the collection, analysis, interpretation, communication and quality control of nutrition data.
Capacity development components in Uganda and Zambia: In these two countries key achievements have included joint multi-stakeholder efforts leading to improvements in data quality and the strengthening of efficient dissemination, use and uptake of nutrition data to more effectively inform decision-making processes at various levels.	Facilitation of south-south learning and experience sharing: At global level, the project steering committee team has facilitated south-south learning by sharing the lessons learnt across country teams. The initiative was launched with a global inception meeting bringing together country, regional and global-level stakeholders to plan and coordinate.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
Timely and quality data with an adequate level of disaggregation are essential to guiding country choices around policies conducive to healthier and sustainable diets for improved nutrition, including the allocation of resources and monitoring progress.	

PROFILE	
Title: Global Diet Quality Project ⁹⁰ : Advancing methods for collecting accurate, reliable, comparable Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) and other Diet Quality Data at Scale	
Budget: EUR 1 million (EU-BMZ contribution through GIZ Knowledge for Nutrition)	Implementation: 2019-2023 Wageningen University & Research and Global Diet Quality (DQ) Project
OBJECTIVE	
The Global Diet Quality Project aims to collect consistent, comparable dietary data across countries worldwide and provide the tools for valid and feasible diet quality monitoring in countries. Specifically, this research grant will improve scalable MDD-W indicator data collection, alongside complementary indicators of diet quality related to the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).	
INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
Global public good which captures both dietary adequacy and dietary risk factors for NCDs: The Diet Quality Questionnaire (DQQ) is an internationally standardised survey instrument which can be used to interpret diet quality within and across countries. The easy-to-use tool includes binary yes/no questions about the consumption of 29 food groups, including healthy foods and foods associated with NCD risk. Given that most countries have multiple burdens of malnutrition, and that poor diets related to NCDs are the top public health risk factor in the global burden of disease, the resulting new indicator, the Global Dietary Recommendations (GDR) score can play a key role in monitoring diet quality.	
Collection of comparable and scalable MDD-W: The DQQ can be used to calculate several diet quality indicators including the MDD-W and the GDR score. The MDD-W is a validated proxy indicator for nutrient adequacy among women of reproductive age, at national and subnational levels in resource-poor settings. For the monitoring of MDD-W across countries, it is key that the survey tools are adapted to contexts. An adapted, sentinel food list-based method to measure the MDD-W has been validated and the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Programme is partnering with the Global DQ Project to integrate the adapted questionnaires.	Adaptation of DQQ to capture local realities: A key innovation of the DQQ tool is that the questions use closed lists, consisting of a limited set of the most frequently consumed food items (sentinel foods) for each food group. The purpose of these country-specific adaptations is to ensure the DQQ tools are culturally responsive and representative of each country's foods. The list-based method is considered to be generally better suited for large-scale use and cross-country comparisons.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	

⁹⁰ [Global Diet Quality Project](#)

The GDR has two sub-components: a GDR Healthy score, reflecting healthy components of the diet (fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, seeds, whole grains) and the GDR-Limit score, reflecting components of the diet to limit (e.g. free sugars, sodium, processed meats). All country-adapted DQQ tools have been made freely available and can be easily added to existing surveys to rapidly measure and monitor the diet quality of populations.

PROFILE	
Title: Evidence needs to inform nutrition policies and programmes in East and West Africa and the Sahel	
Budget: EUR 59 000	Implementation: 2021. The Nutrition Research Facility (NRF), set up under the Knowledge and Research for Nutrition project, is implemented by Agrinatura – the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development ⁹¹
OBJECTIVE	
<p>The NRF consists of a pool of leading experts from European academia. Its aim is to provide improved knowledge and evidence for policy and programme design, management and monitoring and evaluation in order to reach better nutrition outcomes.</p> <p>The objective of this specific initiative (within the broader framework of the NRF) was to identify and prioritise the needs for evidence from decision makers to inform nutrition policies and programmes specifically in the Sahel, East and West Africa.</p>	

INSIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	
78 stakeholders from 15 countries participated in the consultation process. Stakeholders included governments, academia, cooperation partners, UN agencies, civil society organisations and regional intergovernmental organisations. Stakeholder engagement was stimulated by consensus building around the need to better inform policy making with evidence and to better consider policymakers' concerns in research work.	The process identified and prioritised 16 research questions under 5 main topic areas: i) malnutrition persistence, ii) food safety, iii) influencing food choices toward healthy diets and preventing diet-related non-communicable diseases (including in schools), iv) improved enabling environment and political commitment, and v) choice of dietary quality indicators.
The five highest-ranked questions are currently under study by the NRF and the European Union. Additional research questions resulting from this exercise can also be considered for implementation in the future by potential stakeholders.	The demand-driven process proved an efficient way to identify and prioritise research questions: The focus was on ensuring that questions were grounded in decision-makers' needs at regional level. As a result of the success of the initiative, the NRF replicated this approach in other regions (Latin America and Southeast Asia)

⁹¹ <https://www.nutrition-research-facility.eu/>

	in April 2022.
CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHY DIETS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION	
As a result of this initiative, a priority research question of particular relevance to supporting countries to ensure healthy diets for young people was identified with respect to school interventions and is currently under study by the NRF.	

Annex 3: Examples of how nutrition feature in the Multiannual Country Programmes (MIPs): Liberia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Nicaragua

Country	<u>Liberia</u>	<u>South Sudan</u>	<u>Tajikistan</u>	<u>Nicaragua</u>
Nutrition situation	After more than 2 decades of armed conflict and a virulent Ebola outbreak with damaging social and economic consequences, Liberia has high levels of poverty and poor basic services. Close to three quarters of Liberia's food needs are imported and most of the population cannot afford a healthy diet. One in three children under five are stunted and micronutrient deficiencies are high (42% of women aged 15-49 are anaemic). There is increasing prevalence of obesity among women, indicative of a poor diet.	The 2013-2018 civil war displaced a third of the population, severely disrupted agricultural food chains and triggered food shortage and famines across the country, leaving 8.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by 2020. Acute malnutrition remains alarmingly high (23% of children under 5), while close to one in three children are stunted and anaemia affects 35% of women (15-49 years).	Tajikistan has the highest prevalence of stunting in Central Asia, with close to 1 in 5 children under 5 being stunted. Concurrently, the rates of micronutrient deficiency are high, while overweight and obesity continue to rise. Poverty, climate variability and price fluctuations affect the availability and affordability of adequately diverse diets, resulting in 80% of children (6-23 months) being prevented from accessing a minimal acceptable diet.	Following a decade of progress, a series of shocks, including the 2018 socio-political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, have led to growing inequalities and close to half the population living in poverty. Nicaragua experiences a triple burden of malnutrition with child stunting much higher in some districts than the national average of 14%, while 32% of adolescent girls and 61% of adult women are overweight or obese.
Priority areas for EU cooperation	1. Enhancing and preserving natural resources for sustainable growth (EUR 46 million - indicative); 2. Promoting decent jobs and inclusive growth (EUR 85 million - indicative); 3. Improving financial and democratic governance (EUR 60 million - indicative and including support measures). The Team Europe Initiatives 'Safe and Sustainable Food Systems' (TEI SSFSs) and 'Forestry and Biodiversity' are the flagships of the Team Europe interventions in Liberia.	- Green and resilient economy (EUR 83.2 million); - Human development: education and health (EUR 62.4 million); - Good governance, peace and rule of law for a fairer society (EUR 62.4 million including support measures).	- Inclusive green and digital economy (EUR 27 million); - Human development (EUR 22.75 million); - Natural resource management, efficiency and resilience (EUR 39.13 million).	- Environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation (EUR 43 million) - Sustainable economic growth (EUR 35 million) - Support measures (EUR 4 million)
Integration of nutrition	The TEI SSFSs will contribute to improved consumption and trade of safe and nutritious food, creation of decent jobs (youth and women) and boost food systems growth in Liberia. To that effect and fully aligned to the Farm to Fork strategy, it will ensure climate- and ecosystem-smart governance, enhance food value chain linkages and increase women	During the Nutrition for Growth Summit, the Government committed to finalise its national food and nutrition policy and increase domestic spending for nutrition. Recognising the centrality of a humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus approach to improve nutrition, the MIP builds on the past experience of	The alignment of the MIP with Tajikistan's National Development Strategy (2016-2030) results in a strong multi-sectoral focus on food security and nutrition. Under priority area one , the agricultural sector is harnessed to realise decent employment creation	The EU in Nicaragua will support human development and address inequalities through both priority areas using a rights-based approach and a focus on vulnerable groups most affected by malnutrition. A humanitarian-development nexus and conflict-sensitive approaches are mainstreamed to address the immediate

	<p>and youth's access to finance, innovation and services.</p> <p>Priority area one recognises that good decision-making tools are needed to strengthen governance and multi-sectoral coordination around food systems transformation. This can ensure resources are used more efficiently and to substitute food imports with domestic produce.</p> <p>It is also calls for sustainable intensification practices, such as agro-ecological and climate-smart farming of staple crops. Integration with protein- and vitamin-rich crops and aquaculture will increase both productivity and diet diversification, so that populations in both rural and urban areas can get access to safe, varied and nutritious food. Furthermore, the production of cash crops can supplement income for farmers with a focus on women and youth.</p> <p>Agriculture, fisheries and forestry offer great potential for job creation sought under priority area two both through service provision and value addition in the value chains concerned. Ensuring participation in food safety innovations and building the role of women in marketing of agricultural produce (including nutritious foods) will empower women and increase access to safe and affordable foods.</p>	<p>support for agriculture and rural development with a focus on strengthening livelihood resilience to climate change and women's economic empowerment under priority area one.</p> <p>A multi-sectoral approach is reinforced through priority area two, with its focus on improved access to primary education and basic healthcare, with particular attention to marginalised, displaced and host communities. This will include the integration of services to address acute malnutrition in the health sector. There could also be opportunities to include nutrition education in school curricula.</p>	<p>through sustainable and climate-smart value chains. The principles from the Farm to Fork Strategy are applied, namely to advance sustainable food system transformation to deliver healthy and safe diets for all.</p> <p>In the framework of priority area two, both the health sector (via the integration of essential nutrition services) and the education sector (via the promotion of girls' empowerment and with opportunities to promote nutrition awareness) serve to reinforce progress towards improved nutrition.</p> <p>In the context of priority area three, improved access to clean and safe drinking water and improved sanitation can reduce infectious diseases, a key cause of malnutrition.</p>	<p>needs of the population whilst building the foundation for long-term development. Following the principle of the Farm-to-Fork strategy, support will be provided to strengthen the productivity, sustainability and inclusivity of national food systems to ensure healthy and sustainable diets for all.</p> <p>Under priority area one, the focus will be on improving the management of forests and coastal zones and protecting natural capital and ecosystems on which agri-food systems depend. The development of WASH infrastructure will also reduce infectious disease and thereby contribute to improving nutrition especially among children.</p> <p>Under priority area two, the uptake of agro-ecological models will be encouraged within a transformative food-system framework. The promotion of entrepreneurship opportunities will both strengthen food security and facilitate access to healthy diets for vulnerable groups. Support will also be provided to improve prevention and preparedness for food crises through notably the strengthening of food and nutrition information systems and data analysis capacities.</p>
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Examples of new country-level actions for nutrition (2021 commitments with a Nutrition Policy Marker): Chad, DRC, Yemen, Haiti and SUN 3.0

Country	<u>Chad</u>	<u>DRC</u>	<u>Haiti</u>
Programme	Strengthening the resilience of food systems (the taste of life) (EUR 44 million)	United for health and education (EUR 50 million)	Post-earthquake recovery 2021: resilient agriculture and sustainable school feeding in the Department of Grande Anse (EUR 10 million)
Objective	The programme has multiple objectives, including: (i) strengthening the resilience of the population to food shocks; (ii) increased incomes generated by food systems – in particular for women and youth; and (iii) improving local governance and community cohesion.	This initiative seeks to improve access by the population to quality health and education services while strengthening public delivery capacities and supporting national efforts to improve birth registration.	The programme has a three-pronged approach: (i) boost agricultural production of affected households; (ii) facilitate improved access to healthy food in local and regional markets; and, (iii) increase attendance in schools thanks to the provision of meals at school.
Nutrition insights and features	<p>With a focus on tackling the root causes of food crises and malnutrition through the development of more inclusive and sustainable food systems, the programme is firmly aligned with the Farm to Fork strategy. Priority issues to be addressed include environmental degradation and supporting food value chains to enhance women's empowerment and economic sustainability. Operationalising the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is key to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of the population in a conflict-sensitive way.</p> <p>In the framework of the first specific objective, the EU will strengthen the resilience of communities by facilitating access to basic services (such as reproductive and sexual health, WASH, nutrition education, food assistance, etc.) and rehabilitating productive assets and livelihoods.</p> <p>Under the second specific objective, the EU will support the development of economic activities in food and non-food sectors that have a potential to facilitate access to healthy diets.</p> <p>Under the third specific objective, the EU will aim to reduce tensions over access to natural resources by supporting social cohesion and mainstreaming peaceful conflict-resolution approaches.</p> <p>Indicators for food insecurity and malnutrition (including both acute and chronic</p>	<p>The action aims to improve the nutrition status of the population through a multi-sectoral strategy and with the prevalence of severe and moderate acute malnutrition identified as a key indicator for monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Under the first specific objective, the EU will support national authorities to develop and implement coordinated strategies to improve health coverage in the country. Direct support to health centres located in targeted provinces will also be provided in order to strengthen internal processes and improve the management of acute malnutrition. The project will also support communities to limit the risks of infectious disease caused by contaminated food and water.</p> <p>Under the second specific objective, the EU will strengthen the capacities of national authorities to register births and to deliver civil status documents to children to facilitate access to fundamental rights, including the right to adequate nutrition and to education.</p> <p>Under the third specific objective, the EU will support the primary education system through school feeding programmes, improvement of WASH facilities in schools and facilitating nutrition education to raise awareness and knowledge of pupils on issues related to nutrition.</p>	<p>The intervention targets a region that was severely affected by the 2021 earthquake. It will support the operationalisation of the humanitarian-development nexus by bridging operations implemented by ECHO and other humanitarian partners. It will provide support to the agriculture and education sectors and will aim to increase the availability and consumption of nutritious and locally produced food.</p> <p>Under the first specific objective, the EU will support the rehabilitation of productive infrastructures using labour-intensive methods and cash-for-work approaches involving vulnerable communities. Farming inputs will be distributed to households involved in agriculture and combined with training to encourage the uptake of improved farming techniques.</p> <p>Under the second specific objective, the EU will support the restructuring of value chains that present important potential in terms of nutrition, thereby incentivizing local production.</p> <p>Under the third specific objective, the EU will support the implementation of school feeding programmes with local produce and will raise awareness and knowledge of pupils and parents on issues related to nutrition.</p>

	undernutrition) are centrally positioned to track the programme's impact.		
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Country	<u>Yemen</u>	<u>SUN 3.0</u>
Programme	Strengthening evidence-based decision-making in Yemen through improved food security, nutrition and livelihoods information and analysis EUR 8 million (implemented by FAO)	EU support to Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) 3.0 operationalisation EUR 9 million
Objective	The aim of the programme is to consolidate the national Food and Nutrition Security Information System (FNSIS) to improve reliable, timely and relevant early warning data and analysis, availability and uptake. This in turn will strengthen prevention, response mechanisms and resilience interventions based on country-level needs – especially of the most vulnerable.	The objectives for this global programme are to step up the EU engagement in the SUN Movement.
Insights and achievements	<p>Implemented at national scale, the programme builds on the progress and lessons learnt from previous phases with particular attention to the use of data in decision-making processes. This includes medium to long term strategies on food security, nutrition and agriculture through better understanding of livelihood profiles.</p> <p>Key activities include ongoing capacity development and technical training, alongside conducting of IPC (i.e. using globally recognised Integrated Phase Classification tool) Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition analysis to strengthen decision-making, and conducting livelihoods baseline assessments with a strong gender perspective and updated livelihood zoning dimension.</p> <p>Data collected includes number of meals consumed by households every day, sources of income, diversity of food, people's coping mechanisms when facing various shocks and identified gender differences and gaps.</p> <p>A core lesson learnt has been the need for improved communication during analysis and more effective communication of results in order to drive action. Preventing political influence in the process of data generation and analysis is also an important area of focus. In fragile contexts like Yemen where the drivers of food and nutrition insecurity are volatile and dynamic, constant review of the IPC projection assumptions and scenarios is necessary, as is frequent analysis of the key drivers.</p> <p>The establishment of a high-level steering committee for this initiative ensures shared oversight by the Government of Yemen, the FAO and a representative of the EU.</p>	<p>The SUN 3.0 strategy places impact at the country level and leadership by countries front and centre in addressing all forms of malnutrition. Its four strategic objectives include to: Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy for nutrition; develop and align shared priorities for action; strengthen capacities and knowledge management to develop, implement and track country actions; and ensure governance of SUN.</p> <p>As the EU and several EU Member States are part of the SUN movement, it was agreed that a joint effort to support successful implementation of the new SUN 3.0 strategy would be of clear added value. The focus of this component will be on global knowledge-sharing and the provision of demand-driven technical assistance to SUN countries, in particular mobilising European experiences in the areas of nutrition-sensitive policies, public finance and food systems to support policy reforms. Peer to peer exchange and triangular as well as south-south cooperation will be central to this initiative.</p>

Annex 4: European Commission's engagement in 8 global coalitions relevant for the advancement of healthy and sustainable diets for improved nutrition

The Zero Hunger Coalition: This coalition is inspired by the CERES 2030 report's identification and costing of proven instruments and actions to sustainably reduce hunger worldwide. These include (i) investments to empower the excluded such as rural youth or farmers organisations and including social protection; (ii) On-farm investments including services related to extension, irrigation, finance, R&D etc.; and (iii) investments for 'food on the move', such as infrastructure and technical assistance to support small and medium enterprises with respect to storage and sustainable energy and cold chains. To this end, the coalition's anticipated focus will be advocacy for a systems approach, better aligning public and private sector resources around the 10 high impact areas identified by CERES 2030 and increasing resource commitments.

The School Meals Coalition: The aim of this coalition, which is led by WFP and supported by the African Union, as well as a number of EU Member States, is to 'improve the quality and expand the scale of school meals globally as a platform to reach communities, simultaneously transforming food, education, social protection and health systems'. A strategic focus for the coalition is to promote the use of locally produced food in school meals to strengthen livelihoods and boost family purchasing power, underpinned by evidence suggesting that this has a positive effect on enhancing school enrolment and attendance, especially for girls.

The Coalition for Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: This coalition aims to create the conditions and structures needed to strengthen food systems resilience in fragile humanitarian, development and peace contexts. It builds on the EU-supported Global Network against Food Crises in bringing together partners with complementary mandates to sustain a shared commitment to joint analysis and action as well as innovation, and in particular the evolving role of shock-responsive social protection initiatives.

The Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems: The shared vision of this coalition is a world where all people eat healthy diets from sustainable food systems. Its role is to highlight the need to transform food systems to ensure improved health for people and the planet. As stated in the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU will take an active role in strengthening experience-sharing and partnerships between the EU and countries across the world in terms of tackling the challenges of malnutrition in all its forms, food safety and the environmental impact of food production.

Coalition for Agroecology: The focus is on catalysing collaborative action around important existing frameworks and instruments to scale up agroecology. A key priority is the operationalisation of the recently approved CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems along with ensuring policy coherency and consistency across different sectors. Bringing together and ensuring optimal use of both scientific and local knowledge will be key.

Food is never Waste Coalition: This coalition will support countries in developing a suite of context specific interventions, ranging from policies and regulations to voluntary initiatives, to halve food waste by 2030 and reduce food losses by at least 25%. The focus

will be on building and strengthening collaboration across food systems and member states to create more sustainable and resilient food systems.

Aquatic and Blue Foods Coalition: Recent analyses show that climate change is impacting aquatic food production and aquatic ecosystems significantly and that negative impacts will fall most heavily on many of the most vulnerable regions and populations in the tropics. The focus of this coalition is on realising the full potential of sustainable aquatic foods – such as fish, shellfish, aquatic plants and algae, captured or cultivated in freshwater or marine ecosystems – to help end malnutrition and build nature-positive, equitable and resilient food systems.

Sustainable Productivity Growth Coalition: Agriculture faces the daunting challenge of ensuring adequate food to meet the nutrition requirements of the global population while dealing with the climate crisis and ever tightening natural resource constraints. At the same time, unless decent work is ensured for all, including farmers, farm workers and others working across the food system, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition will persist. The focus of this coalition is therefore on inclusive technologies and innovation and the initiative will provide a platform for sharing best practices, identifying knowledge gaps and supporting research priorities.