

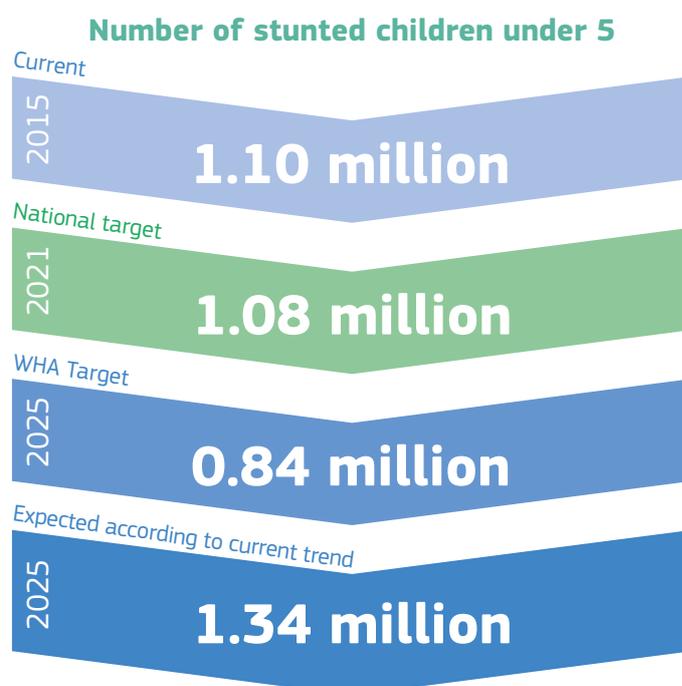
Country Profile on Nutrition

Malawi

The European Commission (EC) is continuing to work strategically to secure traction on its commitments to reduce stunting and to allocate EUR 3.5 billion (2014-20) for this purpose¹. Preliminary results for 2016 indicate a three-fold increase in the EC's commitments to nutrition since 2014. This is a significant development, but this pace of investment needs to be maintained in order to reach the pledge by 2020. The scope to achieve this lies in the strategic design of programmes that are still to be funded – especially in the focal sectors of Food & Nutrition Security, Sustainable Agriculture, Health and Education – so that nutrition is integrated alongside other objectives. This approach is particularly relevant to the new EU Consensus on Development which places emphasis on human development and dignity as well as partnership, prosperity, peace and the planet itself.

Despite an average annual economic growth of 6% since 2006, Malawi still has a high prevalence of stunting amongst children under five. Levels of anaemia are also high, affecting two in three children and one in three women. Nearly 60% of the working age population in Malawi were stunted as children. It is estimated that child undernutrition in Malawi resulted in economic losses equivalent to 10.3% of GDP in 2012². Very high rates of rural poverty³, persistent prevalence of HIV/AIDS and insufficient dietary diversity (only 8% of Malawian children aged 6-23 months reach their minimum acceptable diet) are principal challenges. Also, Malawi's dependency on rain-fed agriculture and its policy focus on maize production, has made the country very vulnerable to climate change. The EU is working in close collaboration with other development

partners and the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) to support the Four Pillars Approach adopted by the Government in 2015 with the aim of addressing nutrition through a multi-sectoral, integrated approach that scales up successful existing initiatives. As a result "Afikepo" was launched – a strategic partnership across principal sectors to enhance nutrition security and improve the social and economic prospects of Malawian children.



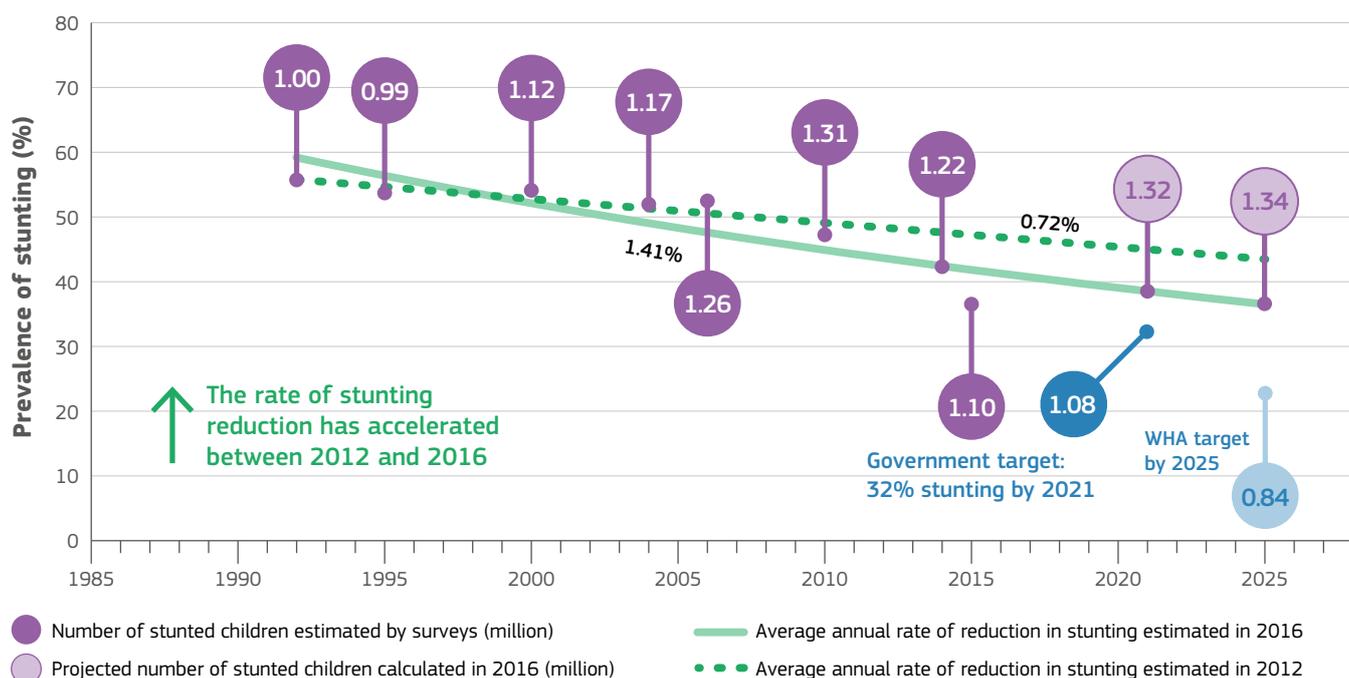
Progress against the World Health Assembly targets⁴

GNR 2016 analysis of progress	WHA (and SDG) nutrition indicators
Off course – Some progress	Stunting of children U5 years of age (SDG2)
On course	Wasting of children U5 years of age (SDG2)
On course – Good progress	Overweight of children U5 years of age
Currently off course	Anaemia of women of reproductive age
NA	Low birth weight
Off course – No progress	Exclusive breastfeeding of infants U6 months

Data last referenced by EU

Prevalence	Number	Year
37.1%	1 095 784	2015 ⁵
2.7%	79 747	2015 ⁵
4.5%	132 912	2015 ⁵
32.7%	2 604 564	2015 ⁵
12.3%	–	2010 ⁶
61.0%	–	2015 ⁵

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



Implications for development planners

Malawi has experienced a general decline in the prevalence of stunting since 1990, but the high numbers of children stunted have persisted due to population growth. Recent projections anticipate that Malawi will meet neither the Government’s own target, nor the World Health Assembly (WHA) target by 2025. The rate in the decline of the number of children stunted has accelerated from 0.72% in 2012 to 1.41% in 2016; even if this is maintained, over 1.3 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025. This is well in excess of the WHA target, and by extension, that of the principal indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2). Consequently, additional efforts are required by the Government and development partners to change Malawi’s course and secure the level of stunting reduction needed.

Nutrition governance

	Yes/No	Comment
Member of SUN Movement	Yes	Since 2011
Government’s commitment to nutrition (including N4G event)	Yes	The new multi-sector Nutrition Policy 2017-2021 (final draft) includes the commitment to reduce stunting amongst under-five children to 32% by 2021.
Multi-sectoral policy framework nutrition	Yes	The National Nutrition Policy & Strategic Plan 2007-2012 has been replaced by a new multi-sectoral Nutrition Policy for 2017-2021 (still to be approved by Cabinet). The costed strategic plan has yet to be developed.
Multi-sectoral platform for nutrition coordination	Yes	A National Nutrition Committee (NNC) is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the MoH (and the DNHA functions as the secretariat). The NNC includes technical specialists and development partners. It is replicated at district level. There is a Donor Group for Nutrition Security (DoNUTS) and a UN Forum on Nutrition.

EU financial commitments to nutrition 2008–2016

Data collected March 2017

The EU commitments to nutrition in Malawi through DEVCO from 2008 to 2016 are illustrated below in Figure 1. Under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020 for Malawi nutrition is prioritised through the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) focal sector to which EUR 250 million have been allocated. By the end of 2016, a total of EUR 205 million is committed under FNSSA sector of which EUR 70 million⁷ is for nutrition ([as per the SUN methodology](#)).

Preliminary results for 2016 indicate a 3-fold increase in the EU’s global funding commitments to nutrition since 2014 as illustrated in Figure 2. The total amount of funding commitments for nutrition globally in the last three years is EUR 1.8 billion, which represents 51 % of the EU overall financial commitment for the period 2014-2020. In 2016 alone, the EU’s financial commitments to nutrition have reached EUR 790 million. This is a significant development, but this pace of investment needs to be maintained in order to reach the EUR 3.5 billion target by 2020.

Progress against the EU’s financial pledge to reduce stunting 2014-2020:

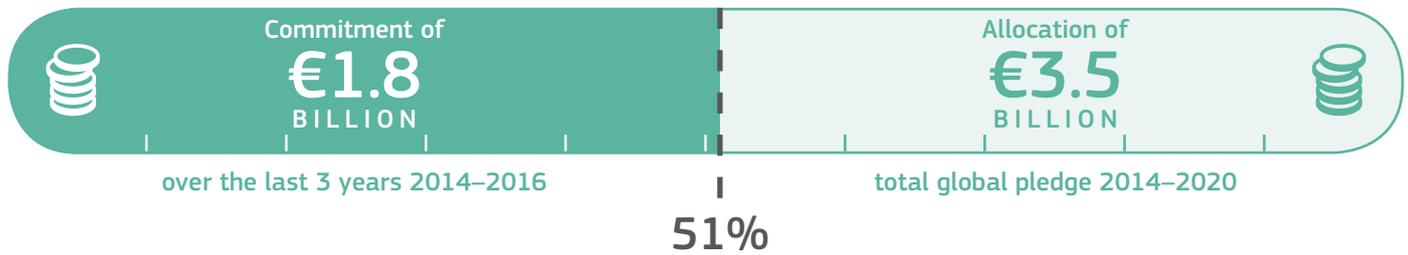


Figure 1

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

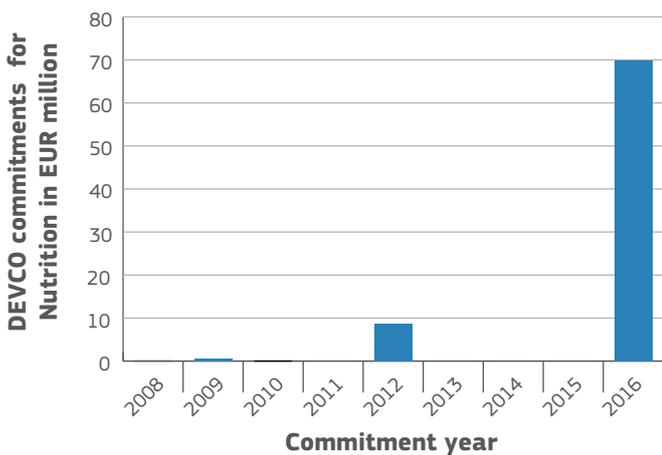
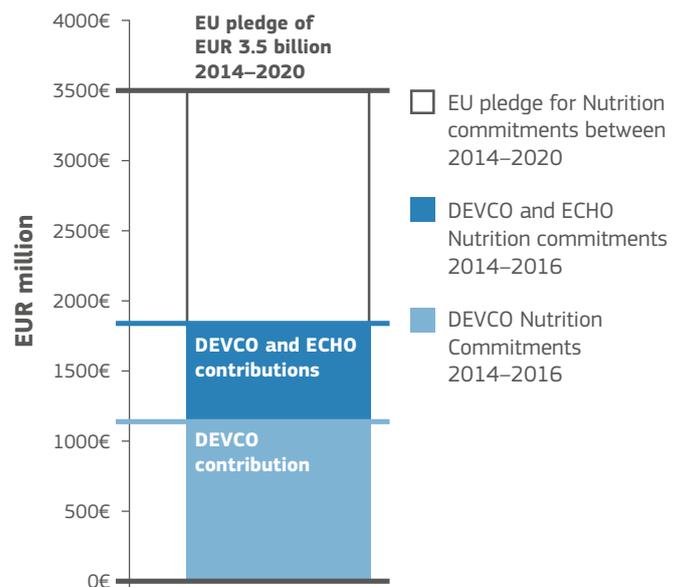


Figure 2

DEVCO and ECHO global commitments 2014–2016 to the EU pledge of EUR 3.5 billion to nutrition 2014–2020



Support of the EU and Member States

NIP Focal sector(s) for nutrition 2014–2020

- Sustainable Agriculture

Enhance mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition

- ✓ Support to the Government to empower the DNHA to maintain its core function of coordinating response across multiple sectors
- ✓ The G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (led in-country by the EU) supports the Government to establish a strengthened and coordinated regulatory framework with recognition of the role the private sector can play in promoting appropriate agricultural growth.
- ✓ Continue EU participation (chair May 2016 – June 2017) in the Donor Group for Nutrition Security (DoNUTS).

Scaling-up actions

- ✓ Support a scoping study and identification of possible nutrition options within the framework of programming for the 11th EDF: actions will focus on enhancing food and nutrition security whilst also building the resilience of the rural population to the effects of climate change.
- ✓ Continued support to social transfers/protection mechanisms; improved land governance; climate smart land, soil and water management; enhanced irrigation infrastructure; better access of farmers to financing and promotion of agri-business.
- ✓ Development of the “Afikepo” programme based upon four pillars: 1) Agriculture for nutrition security and improved maternal, infant and young child feeding and care practices; 2) Primary health care, therapeutic care, support and treatment; 3) Integration of behavioural change and communication for optimal maternal and young child feeding and care (knowledge, attitudes and practices) among communities, learners, professional and frontline workers through nutrition education; and 4) Governance, human capacity building, research, monitoring & evaluation and fortification. DFID funding will contribute to pillar 2.
- ✓ Rural infrastructure fully embedded with other activities under the focal sector of agriculture, to enhance links with agro-processing and access to markets, as well as facilitating food security and access to basic services by rural communities.

Strengthen expertise and knowledge-base

- ✓ Capacity development for nutrition and strengthened information systems for food and nutrition security - especially at a decentralised level.
- ✓ Strategic environmental assessments will be factored into programming design and impact assessment, to better understand the impact extreme weather conditions are having in Malawi.

1 The EU stunting reduction target is embodied in the EU's Communication on Enhancing Maternal and Child Nutrition and the Action Plan on Nutrition to operationalise that policy

2 The Cost of Hunger in Malawi: the social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Malawi (May 2013) AU-NEPAD, UNECA, Government of Malawi, WFP

3 In 2012, 82.3% of the rural population of Malawi lived on less than \$2 per day (World Development Indicators, the World Bank)

4 http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrition_globaltargets2025/en/

5 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16: Key Indicators Report. Zomba, Malawi, and Rockville, Maryland, USA

6 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16

7 CRIS number: 38-583 – EU contribution amount: EUR 70 million – nutrition score: specific – nutrition amount: EUR 70 million