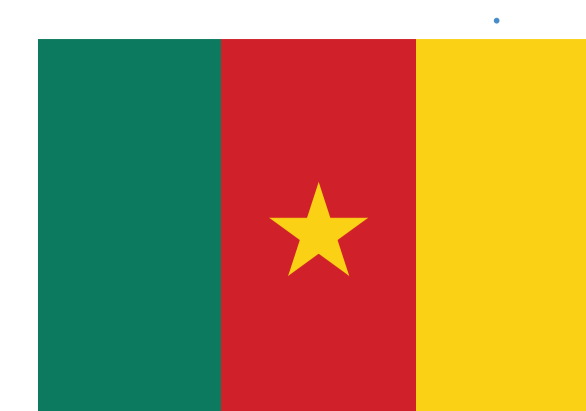


## NUTRITION PROFILE

# Cameroon



### ACCELERATING HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES THROUGH IMPROVED NUTRITION

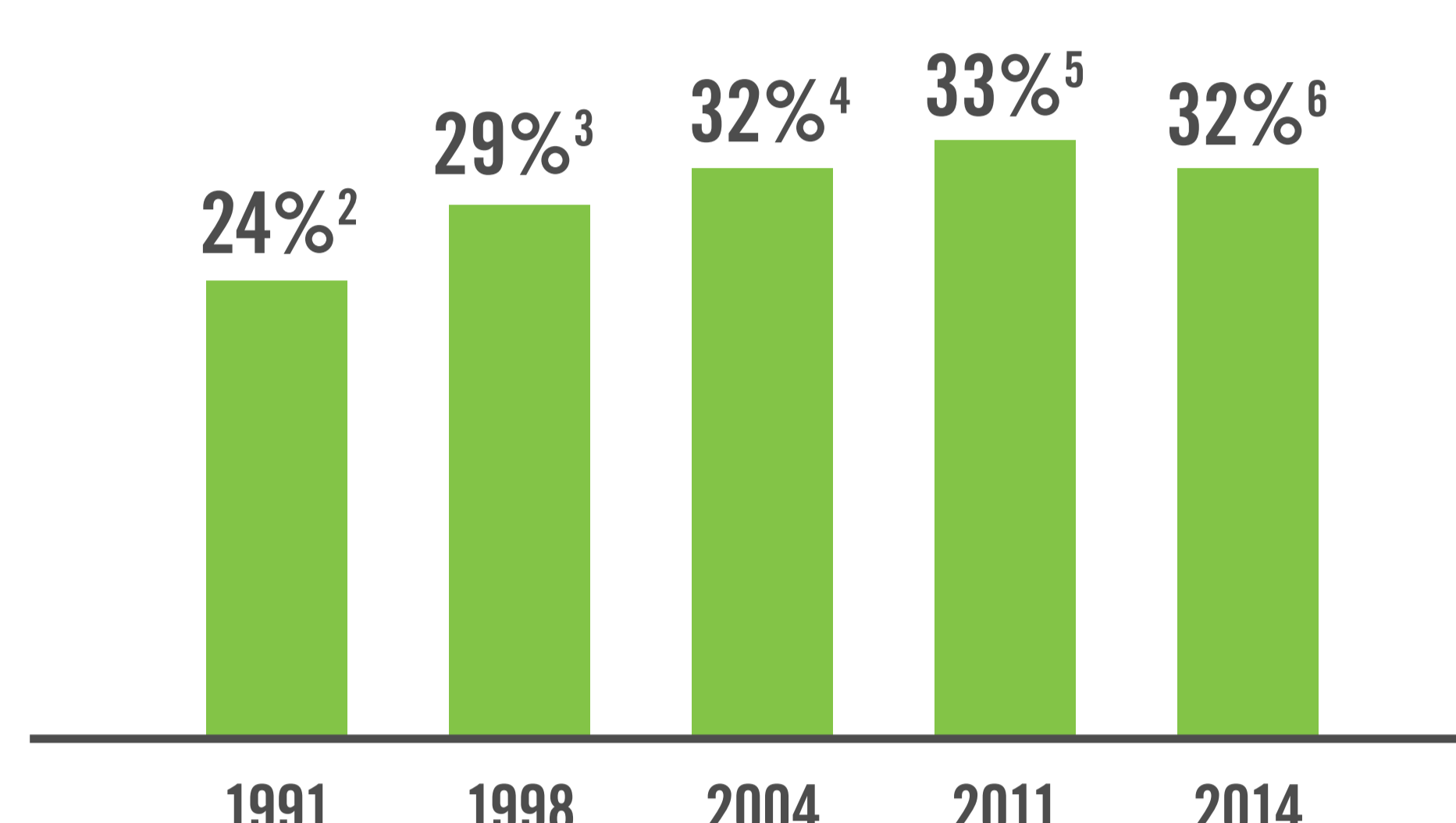
Cameroon has taken important steps to improve nutrition, including an operational plan and a revised Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Policy. Yet stunting rates have remained stagnant for nearly a decade and progress against the Global Nutrition Targets is largely off course. To realize the full health, social and economic benefits of improved nutrition, Cameroon should:

- Step up efforts to implement and fund the 2015-2020 Priority Action Plan on the Fight Against Malnutrition
- Ensure strong implementation of the common results framework based on the Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Policy
- Mobilize resources and allocate a separate budget line for nutrition

#### INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES<sup>1</sup>

Early initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour	31%
Exclusive breastfeeding of infants under 6 months	28%
Breastfeeding at 1 year	70%
Minimum acceptable diet (6-23 months)	17%
Minimum dietary diversity (6-23 months)	33%

#### PROGRESS AGAINST STUNTING



#### CHILD NUTRITION INDICATORS<sup>7</sup>

**15%** of children under-five are **underweight**

**32%** of children under-five are **stunted**

**5%** of children under-five are **wasted**

**11%** of children are born with **low birthweight**

Malnutrition has lasting effects on individuals, families and nations<sup>8</sup>

- **NEARLY HALF** of all child deaths are related to poor nutrition
- **10% or more** of a person's lifetime earnings can be lost due to lower productivity, reduced cognitive ability and increased health care costs
- **3% to 16%** of the GDP in African economies is lost due to undernutrition

#### CHILD MORTALITY<sup>9</sup>

**88** deaths per 1,000 live births

which puts Cameroon **off-track**

to contribute to reducing under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000 live births (Sustainable Development Goal 3).

#### MATERNAL NUTRITION AND HEALTH<sup>10</sup>

Women of reproductive age with anaemia	40%
Women of reproductive age, thinness	7%
Women of reproductive age, short stature	1%

#### PROGRESS AGAINST THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY'S GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS 2025<sup>11</sup>

	Under-five stunting, 2011	Under-five wasting, 2011	Under-five overweight, 2011	Women of reproductive age anaemia, 2011	Exclusive breastfeeding, 2011	Low birthweight
WHA Global Nutrition Target	40% reduction in the number of children under-five who are stunted	Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%	No increase in childhood overweight	50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age	Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%	30% reduction in low birth weight
Cameroon's Progress	Off course, some progress	Off course	On course, good progress	Off course	Off course, no progress	N/A

#### POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

Maternity Leave	14 weeks paid <sup>12</sup>
International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes	Full provisions in law <sup>13</sup>
Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan	Yes <sup>14</sup>
Costed Nutrition Plan	No (2015) <sup>15</sup>
Separate Nutrition Budget	Sectoral only, no specific nutrition allocations <sup>16</sup>
SUN Country	Since 2013 <sup>17</sup>

#### CATEGORIZATION OF CODE LEGISLATION<sup>18</sup>

**Full provisions in law:** country have enacted legislation or adopted regulations, decrees or other legally binding measures encompassing all or nearly all provisions of the Code and subsequent WHA resolutions.

#### IMPROVING NUTRITION STRENGTHENS NATIONS AS A LEADING CONTRIBUTOR TO:<sup>19</sup>

- Reducing mortality rates
- Promoting optimal growth and development
- Decreasing the risk of infectious diseases
- Protecting against chronic conditions later in life
- Improving future earning potential

1 MICS 2014  
2 DHS 1991  
3 DHS 1998  
4 DHS 2004  
5 DHS 2011  
6 MICS 2014  
7 UNICEF State of the World's Children 2016  
8 The Lancet, The World Bank, The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition  
9 UNICEF State of the World's Children 2016  
10 DHS 2011

11 Adopted from the Global Nutrition Report 2015. New analysis will be released in 2017.  
12 ILO Maternity and Paternity at Work 2013  
13 WHO National Implementation of the International Code Status Report 2016  
14 SUN Cameroon Annual Progress Report 2015  
15 Ibid.  
16 HANCI-Africa 2016  
17 SUN Cameroon Profile  
18 WHO National Implementation of the International Code Status Report 2016  
19 UNICEF, The Lancet