

The Gambia



ACCELERATING HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES THROUGH IMPROVED NUTRITION

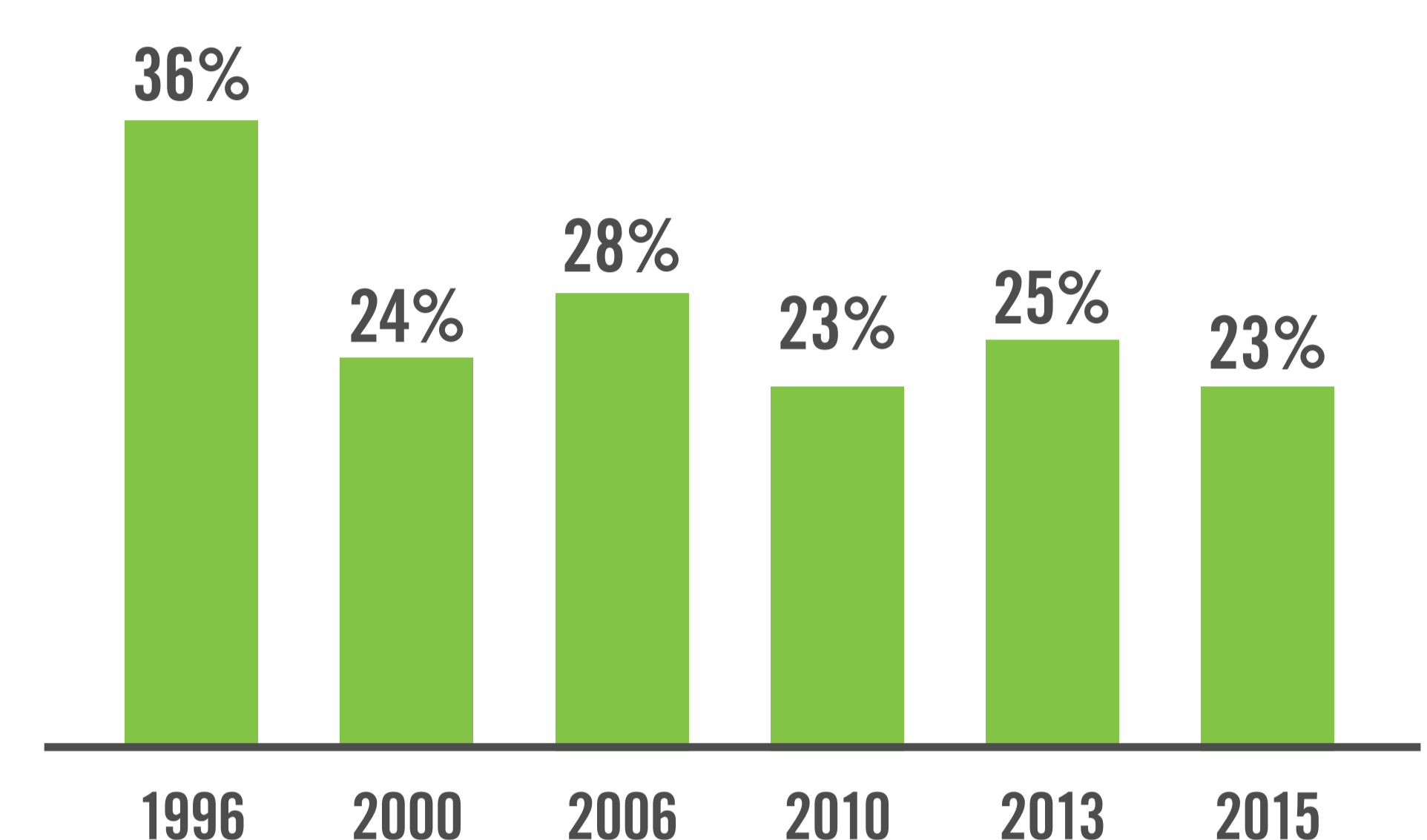
The Gambia has demonstrated good political will for nutrition by establishing a high-level National Nutrition Council and recognizing nutrition as a national development priority. Yet stunting rates have remained stagnant and wasting rates are off course to meet the Global Nutrition Targets. To realize the full health, social and economic benefits of improved nutrition, The Gambia should:

- Implement and allocate adequate resources for the National Nutrition Policy (2010-2020)
- Develop a common results framework in line with the revised National Nutrition Policy
- Ensure workplace maternity protections are implemented and in line with global recommendations

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES¹

Early initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour	52%
Exclusive breastfeeding of infants under 6 months	47%
Breastfeeding at 1 year	98%
Minimum acceptable diet (6-23 months)	8%
Minimum dietary diversity (6-23 months)	13%

PROGRESS AGAINST STUNTING^{2,3}



CHILD NUTRITION INDICATORS

- 22%** of children under-five are **underweight**⁴
- 23%** of children under-five are **stunted**⁵
- 10%** of children under-five are **wasted**⁶
- 12%** of children are born with **low birthweight**⁷

Malnutrition has lasting effects on individuals, families and nations⁸

- **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 MORTALITY⁹

69 deaths per 1,000 live births while the global sustainable development target is to reduce under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000 live births (Sustainable Development Goal 3).

MATERNAL NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Women of reproductive age with anaemia	45% ¹⁰
Women of reproductive age, thinness	N/A
Women of reproductive age, short stature	N/A

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY'S GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS 2025¹¹

	Under-five stunting, 2013	Under-five wasting, 2013	Under-five overweight, 2013	Women of reproductive age anaemia, 2011	Exclusive breastfeeding, 2013	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
The Gambia's Progress	Off course, no progress	Off course	On course, at risk	Off course	On course	N/A

POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

Maternity Leave	6 months paid
International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes	Full provisions in law ¹²
Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan	Yes ¹³
Costed Nutrition Plan	\$26.3 million (2010-2015) ¹⁴
Separate Nutrition Budget	Yes (2014) ¹⁵
SUN Country	Since 2011 ¹⁶

CATEGORIZATION OF CODE LEGISLATION¹⁷

Full provisions in law: country has 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:¹⁸

- 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 UNICEF Infant and Young Child Feeding Database 2016
 2 UNICEF/WHO/WB 2015
 3 National SMART Nutrition Survey 2015
 4 Ibid.
 5 Ibid.
 6 Ibid.
 7 DHS 2013
 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 WHO 2015

11 Adopted from the Global Nutrition Report 2015. New analysis will be released in 2017.
 12 WHO National Implementation of the International Code Status Report 2016
 13 SUN Gambia Annual Progress Report 2016
 14 SUN Costed Plan Summary 2015
 15 HANCI-Africa 2014
 16 SUN Gambia Profile
 17 WHO National Implementation of the International Code Status Report 2016
 18 UNICEF, *The Lancet*

