

# Ruhr-Universität Bochum

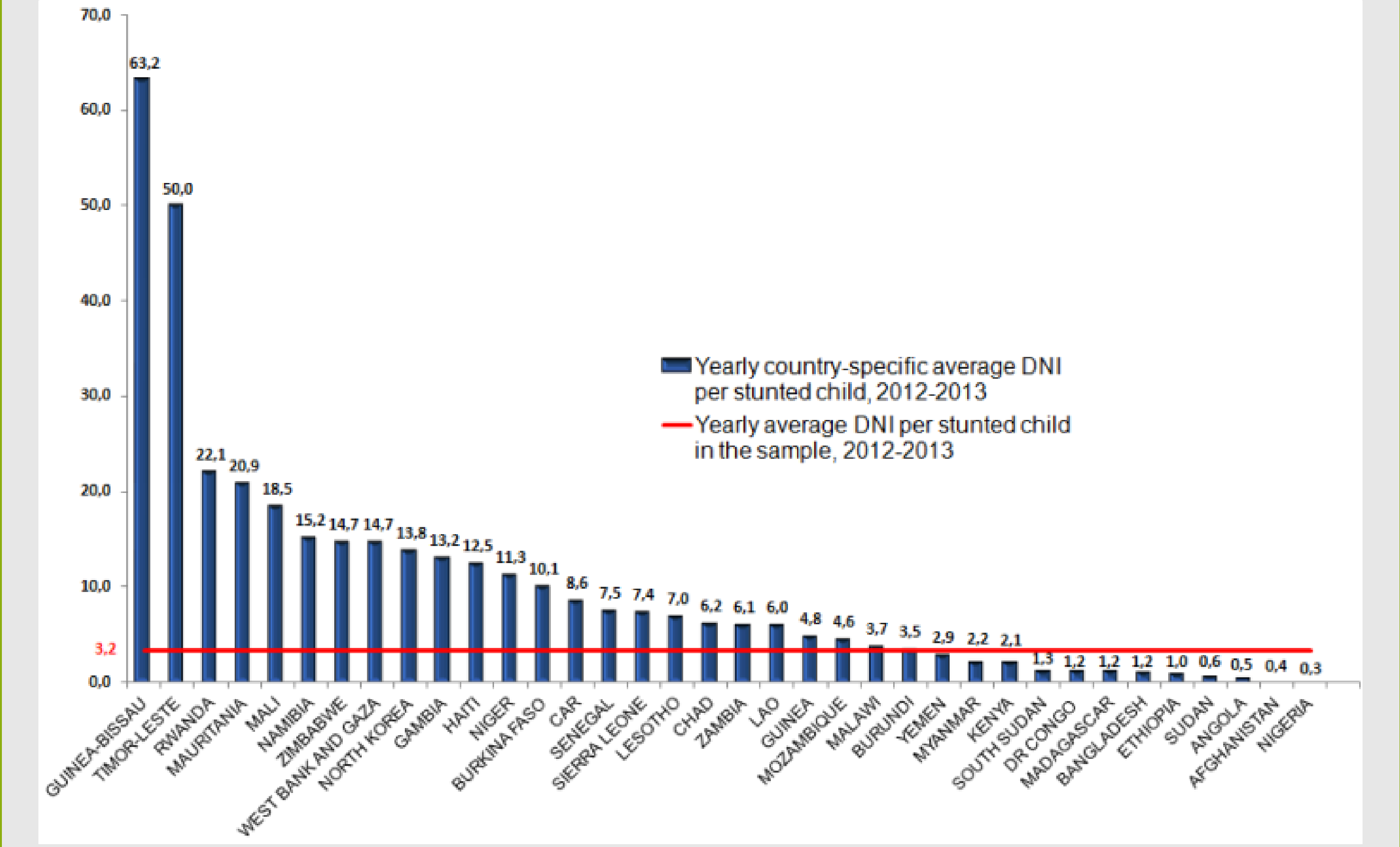
## Determinants of the EU Action on Nutrition in the LDCs

Dr. Richard Zada

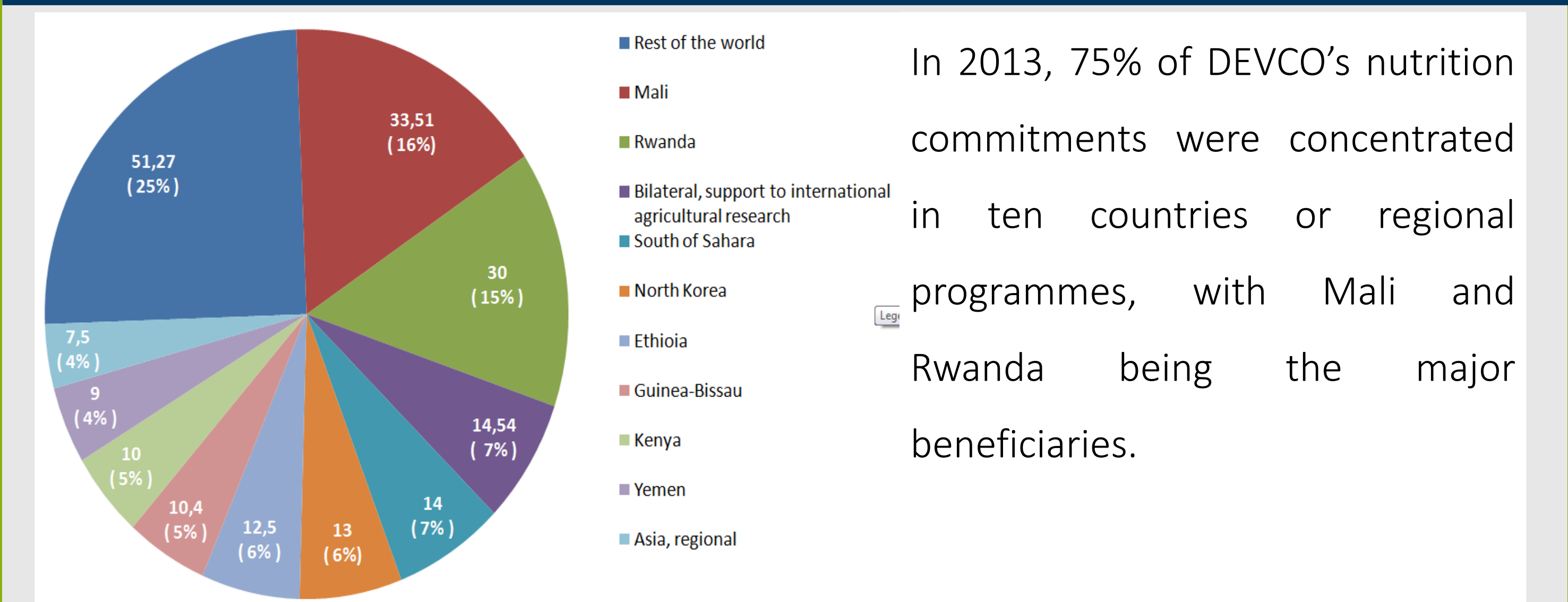
**ABSTRACT:** European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) commitments for 2012 and 2013 were found to be positively correlated with country malnutrition (stunting) rates; the higher the rate of malnutrition the higher the commitment. However, over these 2 years there was only a very weak association with countries having the highest number of stunted children. Of the top ten countries (India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia, China, Bangladesh, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Philippines and Tanzania) for numbers of stunted children only three received nutrition commitments (Nigeria, Bangladesh and DR Congo). Unlike with stunting rates, the number of stunted children was found not to be significant factor that explains country-specific commitments. Furthermore, a huge variation was observed in the amount of commitment per stunted child between different countries, ranging from €63.20 (Guinea Bissau) to less than €1 (Sudan, Angola, Afghanistan, Nigeria), indicating considerable scope for scaling up nutrition commitments in some countries.

### 1. Introduction

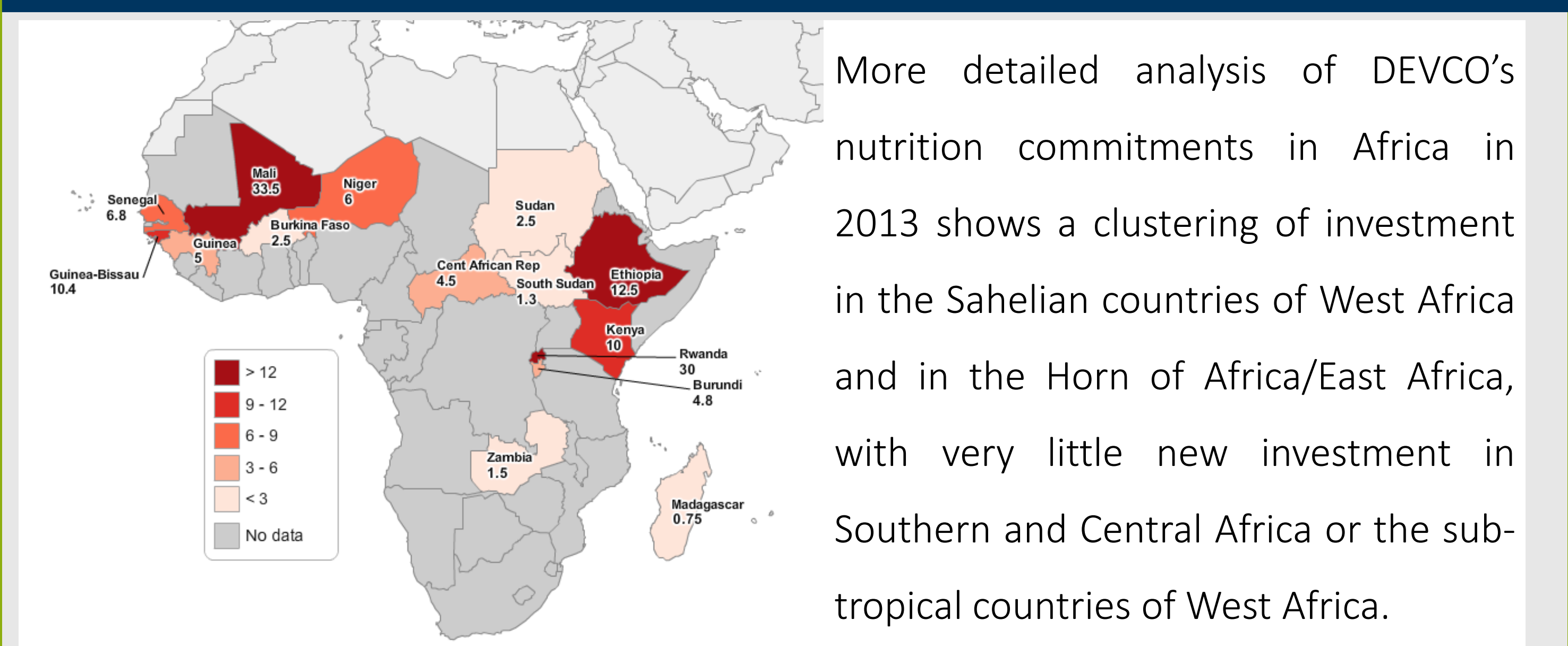
The European Union is a major player in the field of nutrition in the context of international development cooperation. The major target of this research project is detection of the factors determining geography of DEVCO nutrition commitment and disbursement. Due to the limited data on nutrition investments the project relies on the data of 2012 and 2013. Methodologically the project relies on the evaluation tools provided by Scaling Up Nutrition Principles (SUN Methodology). These enable classification of the projects in nutrition specific and unspecific ones. All the results of the project are based on the nutrition specific projects. There is a huge gap between countries regarding nutrition investments per stunted child. Analysis of the average DEVCO nutrition commitment per stunted child in each country over the last two years further shows that DEVCO’s nutrition investments are unevenly distributed over the countries covered by DEVCO and often small, with an average of €3.22 per annum. Twelve countries (Nigeria, Afghanistan, Angola, Sudan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Kenya, Myanmar and Yemen) received commitments of less than the average. This average commitment of €3.22 per child itself is well under the average commitment per child that DEVCO has pledged over the next seven years, estimated to be €71.43 per child per year (on the basis of a €3.5 billion pledge to reduce stunting in 7 million children over 7 years).



### 2. Geography of DEVCO Nutrition Commitments



### 3. DEVCO Nutrition Commitments in Africa

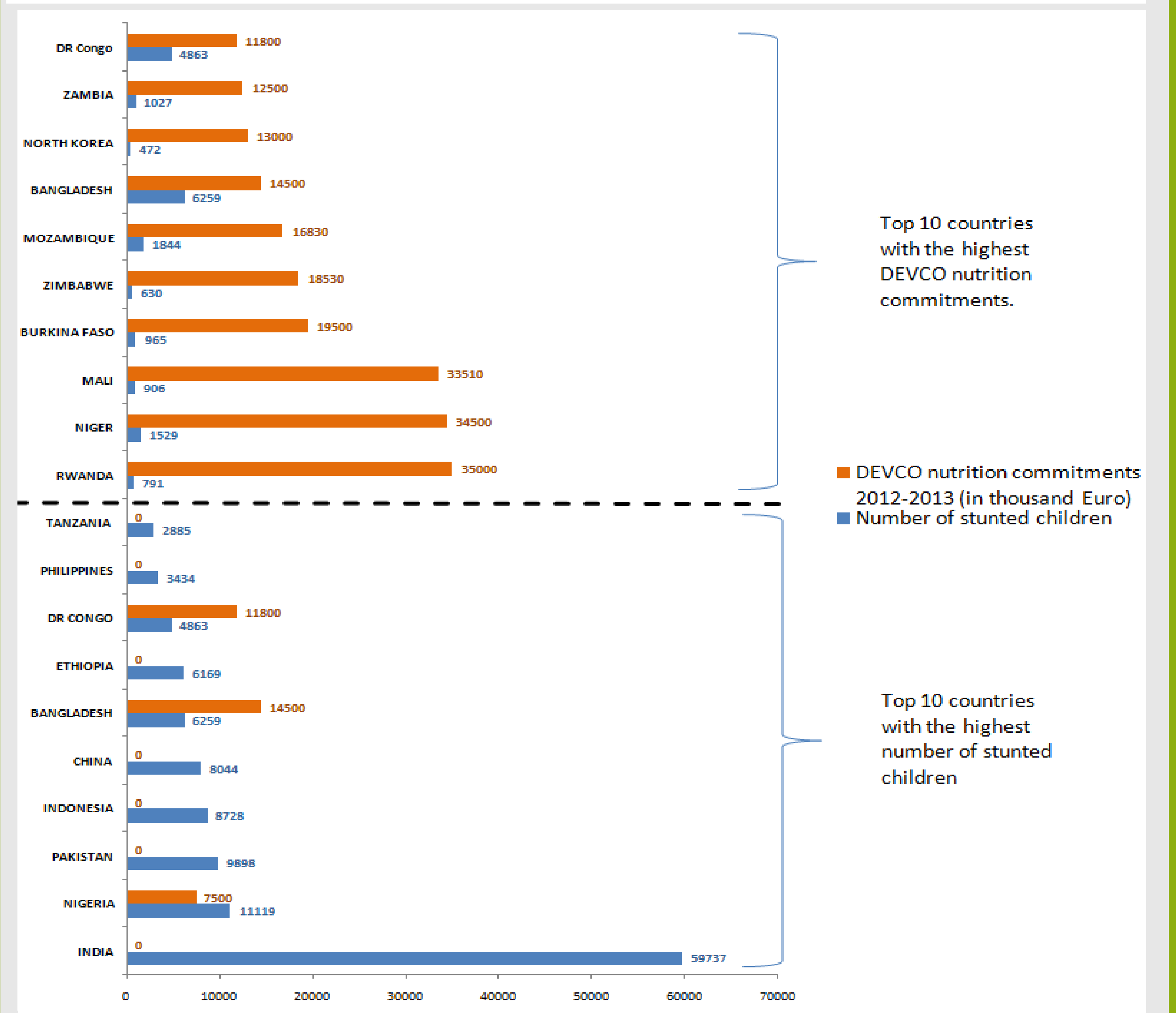


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### 4. Discontents of DEVCO Nutrition Policy

The data shows that DEVCO’s nutrition commitments over the last 2 years has only been weakly linked to countries with the highest numbers of stunted children (see figure 11). Taking the top ten recipient countries of DEVCO nutrition commitments (the top half of the graph), it can be seen that the countries receiving the highest commitments are not the countries with the highest number of stunted children. In addition, taking the top ten countries with the highest number of stunted children (the bottom half of the graph), it can be seen that only 3 countries (DR Congo, Bangladesh and Nigeria) have received nutrition commitments in the last 2 years. Furthermore, while 5 countries (India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia and China) make up more than 50% of the global number of stunted children, DEVCO has only made nutrition commitments in one of them (Nigeria).



**DEVCO country commitments 2012 and 2013 compared with country stunting numbers (thousands).**

### 5. Preliminary findings

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs =	36
Model	15731.4025	3	5243.80083	F( 3, 33) =	7.62
Residual	22706.0123	33	688.060979	Prob > F =	0.0005
Total	38437.4148	36	1067.70597	R-squared =	0.4093
				Adj R-squared =	0.3556
				Root MSE =	26.231

DNlperChildinE~20122013	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Stunting	.6103417	.2293034	2.66	0.012	.1438204 1.076863
NumberofStuntedChildren	-.0043186	.0020175	-2.14	0.040	-.0084232 -.0002141
SSAfr	2.336827	9.408574	0.25	0.805	-16.80506 21.47871

Stunting rate, in contrast to the absolute number of stunted children and regional dummy (sub-Saharan Africa), is the only statistically significant determinant (p-value less than 5%) of the country-specific DEVCO nutrition investment per stunted child. The estimation suggests that there is even a slightly negative association between the number of stunted children and nutrition investment per stunted child.

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