

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Institutional transformations in 2016-2017



Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Committee, created in December 2015, is not yet functional. However, the National Nutrition Programme's technical platform – headed by the Ministry of Health – met eight times in 2016-2017, despite not having a dedicated budget. The multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) comprises all members of various nutrition and food security "clusters" and development stakeholders, as well as nutrition-related ministries, technical and financial partners, and United Nations agencies. The MSP members share data and information about emergencies

and field activities. Four ministries are currently appointing nutrition focal points, which will bring the total number of ministries with nutrition resource persons to 10. These focal points will need to attend a multi-sectoral coordination training session. There are five formal networks, including a scientist network, and the civil society network is currently appointing a new steering committee as it seeks an injection of fresh impetus. Finally, some activities from the 2017 roadmap have been incorporated into the National Health Development Plan.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The World Bank performed a multi-sectoral analysis of laws and policies in 2015, during the process of drafting the National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan. Health and agriculture strategy documents are currently being revised to make them more nutrition-sensitive, in line with the National Food Security and

Nutrition Policy. Laws on the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, food fortification and maternity leave also need to be revised. Insufficient progress has been made in establishing a coherent legal and policy framework because of the political situation in the country.

Aligning actions around a common results framework

Stakeholders now refer to the National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PNSMN) and the associated operational plan (which include a common results framework) to select the majority of activities for inclusion in their annual workplans. Government programmes are currently being revised to make them nutrition-sensitive, but the Government

has yet to start implementing the PNSMN and the associated action plan, because no dedicated resources have been allocated. Technical and financial partners are implementing a handful of activities using their own funds. The preliminary nutrition and food security stakeholder map also needs to be finalised.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The estimated costings for PNSMN activities, by the World Bank and UNICEF, are included in the action plan but the Government has not set aside a dedicated budget for their implementation. Funding needs are therefore known, but plans for a high-level donor roundtable event were

abandoned because of a lack of funds. The SUN Movement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has had an allocated budget since 2015, but the funding has not materialised and there is still no long-term resource mobilisation strategy.

2017-2018 PRIORITIES

- Finalise the common results framework:
- Mobilise resources to fund the PNSMN action plan;
- Develop multi-sectoral nutrition advocacy and communication strategies;
- Mobilise members of parliament to lobby for funding and raise public awareness.