**NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM** *(Extract from the 2013 to 2017 MSP)*

The national multi-stakeholder platform consists of the following coordination mechanisms:

1. National level Coordination mechanisms National Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee
2. National Food and Nutrition Security Technical Coordination Committee Sector based technical coordination mechanisms
3. Sub national level Coordination mechanisms

* District Food and Nutrition Security Coordination committee
* District Sector Coordination Committees
* Chiefdom/Ward/Village Coordination Committees

National level coordination mechanisms

The Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee is the top-most policy making body governing the Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan. The Vice President chairs it, and its members include all Ministers (MOHS, MAFFS, MSWGCA, MEST, MMR, MTI, MLG, MWR, and MOFED), and representatives from NaCSA, UN, and Donor agencies involved in the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan. The Steering Committee meets once every quarter In line with its existing roles, it provides the overall strategic vision to promote food and nutrition security through an inter-sectoral approach.

The steering committee meets on a bi-annual basis.

The roles of Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee include:

To provide strategic direction to the Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan and take key policy decisions; this includes policy issues which cut across a number of areas of government’s work, spanning

multiple government ministries.

***National Food and Nutrition Security Technical Coordination Committee:***

structure is the operational or technical arm of the steering committee that meets on a quarterly basis. This is a Multi-Sector Technical Committee and its membership comprise of key technical experts from the relevant government ministries, Research Institutions, UN Agencies, Development Partners, Private Sector, Research, Academia, NGOs and the Civil Society (Diagram 11). The Committee will be alternatively chaired and co-chaired by the MOHS (Chief Medical Officer) and MAFFS (Director General) and will meet on a quar­terly basis and report to the Steering Committee through the SUN Secretariat.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The Technical Committee will undertake the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure sector plans are aligned with policy
2. Promote and support joint sector planning
3. Harmonize strategies for execution of interventions
4. Provide regular update to the Committee on on-going field activities
5. Undertake technical review and propose update of policy
6. Develop and update national database for nutrition
7. Oversee M&E and supervision of activities
8. Coordinate actions with the district level, providing technical support, guidelines, supervision and feed­back

The national sector based technical coordination mechanisms i.e. Nutrition technical coordination commit­tee, WASH committee, the Health Development Partners committee and the Agriculture Advisory Group will continue with their functions and they will play a supportive role to the Food and Nutrition security coordi­nation committees.

***The SUN Secretariat***

The SUN Secretariat has been established in the office of the Vice President with the primary mandate to coordinate the efforts of different SUN Movement stakeholders, to manage the Secretariat of core staff and support the Vice President in facilitating and leading coordination, promote networking, resource mobili­zation and implementation of SUN activities as well as muster multi-sectoral collaboration with a clear and sustained political commitment.

**Roles and responsibilities**

Specific roles and responsibilities of the SUN Secretariat include the following:

1. **Support for Coordination Meetings**
2. Prepare, organize, and take minutes for the steering committee meeting in close liaison with the Chairper­son. Agenda items for the steering committee to be proposed by the technical committee
3. Follow-up action points decided during the technical and steering committee meeting to ensure that they are fully implemented
4. Disseminate minutes to all members of the steering and technical committees
5. Develop the capacity of districts to establish multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for nutrition
6. Liaise with all SUN Networks to ensure that they fully participate in the Scaling Nutrition actions
7. **Planning, M&E**

* Analyze trends and risks and provide cross-sector analytical support for nutrition on a regular basis to inform policy and programming.
* Conduct mapping exercise to update who is working where and possible gaps that need attention.
* Organize annual review and planning meetings for all sectors and stakeholders to monitor progress against targets and develop new plans.
* Regularly track investments and identification of funding gaps for the national nutrition plan.
* Support resource mobilization function for sections of the plan that are not well resourced.
* Establish a consolidated M&E database and continuously provide reports to the technical committee and the steering committee.
* Facilitate sector cooperation and collaboration and improve linkages between core sectors.
* Provide support and sensitization to the sectors to better understand how they contribute to the broader nutrition agenda.
* Provide support to the districts to prioritize nutrition actions and develop integrated district plans.
* Coordinate the review of the national nutrition implementation plan at midterm and end term.

**Information Sharing**

* Maintain a database and a mailing list of all key stakeholders for communication purposes.
* Organize stakeholder events to discuss key issues on nutrition on a need basis.
* Provide coordination support to all sectors and stakeholders to ensure progress in implementation of the plan
* Establish and operationalize an information sharing platform to ensure that all partners are fully engaged



**Advocacy**

* Coordinate and lead advocacy events for issues requiring joint advocacy.
* Coordinate the development and implementation of an advocacy strategy for the national implementa­tion plan.
* Prepare and support nutrition champions to advocate for nutrition by providing materials and other rel­evant information.



District level coordination mechanisms:

Provisions of social services in Sierra Leone have been decentralized to the District Councils. The Councils in collaboration with the Technical Ministries and the communities design, plan, implement, monitor and su­pervise development activities at the district level. One of the mandates of the District Council is the overall coordination of all development activities in the district. Each District Council is consistently working towards the development of a single integrated development plan. Through the mainstreaming of the right to food at all levels, the capacity of local councils to plan and integrate food and nutrition security into the district development plans will be enhanced. The district councils will establish a District Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Committee composed of representatives of departments in the relevant sectors, civil society organizations, NGOs, private sector, and other relevant institutions at the district level. The Committee will be chaired by the Chief Administrator and will meet once every quarter and will link and report to the Na­tional Food and Nutrition Security Technical Committee.

Roles and Responsibilities

Specifically, the roles of the Committee will be as follows:

1. Ensure that food and nutrition security considerations are fully integrated in the district development plans
2. Assist the various sectors to generate resources for their interventions
3. Ensure that every stakeholder generates the requisite data vital for informed coordination and decision making
4. Support assessments, reviews, monitoring and supervision of food security and nutrition security inter­ventions
5. Ensure that district and sector plans are implemented as planned
6. Coordinate actions at the community levels providing technical support, guidelines, supervision and feedback

District Sectorial Coordination Committees:

1. Some government ministries have well established technical coordination mechanisms at the district level. These are the District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) and the District Agriculture Committees (DAC). They meet every month to plan, monitor progress of implementation and address challenges encountered. The sectoral committees also interpret and execute policies to all stakeholders so that they can align their in­terventions accordingly. Members of these sector committees comprise of key departments, NGOs, relevant civil society groups and private sector entities providing services within the mandate of the Sector. The sector coordination committees will be strengthened for the smooth implementation of this plan and to provide technical support to the District Food and Nutrition Security coordination committee.



Community level coordination:

The participation of the community is critical in the implementation of this action plan. Through the right to food initiative, the community will be sensitized to enhance their participation in claiming their rights and holding the duty bearers to account on the implementation of the plans. Community level coordination com­mittees are composed of the Ward Committees, Chiefdom Development Committees, and the Village Devel­opment Committees. While some of these committees function well in some districts, they are dormant in others. The functional committees will be used as entry points to coordinate food and nutrition interventions at the community level and enhance information flow to and from the district. The functions of the different governance systems are as indicated in table below.

***Governance structures at the community level***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Leadership** | |  | | --- | | **Governance body** | | |  | | --- | | **Responsibility** | |
| Ward | |  | | --- | | Ward Councilor  (Democratic struc­ture | | |  | | --- | | Ward Committee  (5 men, 5 women) | | * Political representation of the community. * Articulate and prioritize community needs for planning |
| Chiefdom | Paramount Chief (Traditional Structure) | Chiefdom Development Committee | * Traditional leadership. * Resource allocation. * Custodian of cultural and traditional norms. |
| Village | Town Chief | Village/Area/Health Development Committee | * Manage community development interventions. |