El Salvador

Joined: September 2012
Demographic data

- Children under 5 (million, 2010): 0.6
- Adolescent Girls (15-19) (million, 2010): 0.40
- Average Number of Births (million, 2010): 0.10
- Population growth rate (2010): 0.47%

WHA nutrition target indicators (FESAL 2008)

- Low birth weight: N/A
- 0-5 months Exclusive Breastfeeding: 31.4%
- Under five stunting: 20.6%
- Under five wasting: 1.6%
- Under five overweight: 5.7%

Coverage of Nutrition-relevant Factors

Infant and young child feeding practice

- 6-23 months with Minimum Acceptable Diet: -
- 6-23 months with Minimum Diet Diversity: -

Programs for vitamin and mineral deficiencies

- Zinc Supplementation for Diarrhea: 12.3%
- Pregnant Women Attending 4 or more Antenatal Care Visits: -
- Vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months): 81.0%
- Households Consuming Adequately Iodized Salt: 62.0%

Women’s Empowerment

- Female literacy: 82.3%
- Female employment rate: 45.3%
- Median age at first marriage: -
- Access to skilled birth attendant: 95.5%
- Women who have first birth before age 18: -
- Fertility rate: 2.4

Other Nutrition-relevant indicators

- Rate of urbanization: 64.02%
- Income share held by lowest 20%: 3.71%
- Calories per capita per day (kcal/capita/day): 2,597.4
- Energy from non-staples in supply: 52.30%
- Iron availability from animal products (mg/capita/day): 1.9
- Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities: -
- Open defecation: -
- Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources: -
- Access to Piped Water on Premises: -
- Surface Water as Drinking Water Source: -
- GDP per capita (current USD, 2013): 3,826.00
- Exports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012): 3.81
- Imports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012): 2.94

Stunting Reduction Trend and Target

- Current AARR: 3.5%

Distribution of stunting across wealth quintiles

- Lowest income quantile prevalence: 10%
- Highest income quantile prevalence: 70%
- Government Reduction target: 60%

Trend of Exclusive Breastfeeding Rate

- Target prevalence: 3.3%
- Beginning prevalence: 10.6%
- Target AARR: 3.3%
All government institutions have systems through which they register their spending in accordance with the law. United Nations agencies and various donors are aligning their actions to the objectives of the Strategic Plan and are providing resources to achieve these ends. CONASAN has requested external support from the Secretariat of the FSN Movement to estimate costs and funding gaps in the financing of the FSN Multisectoral Strategic Plan. This will be an important step towards mobilizing resources. A basic budget allocation has been assigned for the operation of the competent body (CONASAN) for this year.

The National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONASAN) is responsible for defining the National Policy and Strategy on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN). It promotes inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination and incorporates the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency and the Secretariat for Social Inclusion. CONASAN has an Executive Committee, an FSN Technical Committee (COTSAN), Provincial and Municipal Councils and an Advisory Committee that brings together various national stakeholders. The United Nations, donors, NGOs, private enterprises and civil society collaborate to define, execute and monitor the policy’s main action lines. The United Nations has an Interagency Technical Group for Food Security and Nutrition (GTISAN). A network of bilateral donors connected to FSN has not been officially established, although some support national efforts to fight undernutrition. A Civil Society Alliance is being set up that brings together more than 200 local organizations and the process is under way to create an academic network. Headway has recently been made in the establishment of multisectoral platforms at a local level. With the recent election of a new government, a coordinated effort is required to raise the level of awareness of the new authorities. Lastly, it should be noted that a Parliamentary Group against Hunger has been formed, led by the President of the Agriculture and Livestock Commission of the Legislative Assembly.

The 2012-2016 Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (PESAN) has the objective of eradicating chronic child undernutrition. The Plan’s implementation process must be completed and have an impact at local level, as well as encourage the organization of the different sectors at this level. The first FSN Multisectoral Committee has recently been established in the province of Chalatenango, where local government and twelve mayors are leading the coordination of nutrition interventions based on the FSN Provincial Plan. Multisectoral Committees have been set up in 16 municipalities. Implementation tools for sectoral programmes have been developed in various areas (e.g. Family Agriculture, Glass of Milk, Nutrition for Schoolchildren and Integral Treatment in Early Childhood). An inter-institutional information system is being developed that will monitor the most relevant FSN indicators.

A preliminary bill on FSN has been sent to the National Assembly for approval. The Breast-feeding Act was adopted in 2013. The National Policy for Food Security and Nutrition was ratified in 2010, while the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan for FSN was adopted in 2013. In 2010, El Salvador created a National Policy for the Promotion, Support and Protection of Breast-Feeding, a Plan for the Reduction of Micronutrient Deficiency and a Strategy for Child Nutrition Treatment in the country’s 100 poorest municipalities. Furthermore, El Salvador is in the process of finalizing a Strategy for the Promotion and Dissemination of Nutrition Information. The country has operational legislation in key sectors relating to nutrition. An Act on Social Protection also exists, as well as an Act on the Protection of Women and Gender Equality. El Salvador is in the final stages of drafting a Capacity Building Strategy for the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition.
Progress Across Four SUN Processes
El Salvador

2013¹ and 2014² Scoring of Progress Markers

- Bringing people together into a shared space for action
  - 2013: 38%
  - 2014: 44%

- Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
  - 2013: 24%
  - 2014: 32%

- Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework
  - 2013: 50%
  - 2014: 54%

- Financial Tracking and resource mobilization
  - 2013: 8%
  - 2014: 0%

2014 Dashboard for Progress Markers

Stage of Preparedness

- 38% (2013)
- 44% (2014)
- 50% (2014)
- 54% (2014)

¹Externally assessed by the SUN Movement Secretariat
²Internally assessed by in-country self-assessment exercise