Comoros

Joined: December 2013
Demographic data
National Population (million, 2010) 0.68
Children under 5 (million, 2010) 0.1
Adolescent Girls (15-19) (million, 2010) 0.03
Average Number of Births (million, 2010) 0.02
Population growth rate (2010) 2.57%

WHA nutrition target indicators (EDS-MICS 2012)
Low birth weight N/A
0-5 months Exclusive Breastfeeding 12.1%
Under five stunting 32.1%
Under five wasting 11.1%
Under five overweight 10.9%

Coverage of Nutrition-relevant Factors
Infant and young child feeding practice
6-23 months with Minimum Acceptable Diet 5.9%
6-23 months with Minimum Diet Diversity 25.2%

Programs for vitamin and mineral deficiencies
Zinc Supplementation for Diarrhea 0.4%
Pregnant Women Attending 4 or more Antenatal Care Visits 48.9%
Vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months) -
Households Consuming Adequately Iodized Salt 91.0%

Women’s Empowerment
Female literacy 63.3%
Female employment rate 42.3%
Median age at first marriage 20.7
Access to skilled birth attendant 76.1%
Women who have first birth before age 18 10.3%
Fertility rate 4.3

Other Nutrition-relevant indicators
Rate of urbanization 28.00%
Income share held by lowest 20% 2.60%
Calories per capita per day (kcal/capita/day) 2,167.2
Energy from non-staples in supply 46.42%
Iron availability from animal products (mg/capita/day) -
Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities 28.9%
Open defection 56.0%
Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources 70.6%
Access to Piped Water on Premises 37.9%
Surface Water as Drinking Water Source 0.8%
GDP per capita (current USD, 2013) 894.00
Exports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012) 39.71
Imports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012) 43.82

Distribution of stunting across wealth quintiles

Trend of Exclusive Breastfeeding Rate

Targeted Stunting Reduction (million US stunted children)
The Comoros joined the SUN Movement in December 2013. The Director of Family Health in the Vice-Presidency in charge of the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Gender Promotion, was appointed National Coordinator for SUN by the Vice President in charge of Health.

An exploratory REACH mission provided the opportunity to reflect on the setting up of the multi-sector coordination mechanism for nutrition governance. A multi-sector interim committee on good nutrition governance has been established, with two key missions as their terms of reference: the setting up of a multi-sector platform and the launch of the SUN Movement. This interim committee is chaired by the representative of civil society, the President of the Comorian Consumer Federation (CCF), and co-chaired by the SUN focal point. It is composed of representatives from several ministries: the Ministry of Health, solidarity, social cohesion and gender promotion; the Ministry of Agriculture and production; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Commerce; the Ministry of Employment, Labor, Vocational Training and Women’s Entrepreneurship. Also participating are the French Planning Authorities (Commissariat Général au Plan), the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (INRAPE), UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA.

The meetings are convened jointly by the Chairman of the Provisional Committee and the SUN focal point. For the moment, the role of the secretariat is carried out by the Directorate of Family Health. This interim committee meets weekly. During this transition period, the Interim Committee reports to His Excellency the Vice-President in charge of the Ministry of Health, solidarity, social cohesion and gender promotion.

The process of setting up the governmental body is under way and the focal points of various ministerial departments are in the process of being identified. UNDAF, which is currently being finalized, will take nutrition governance aspects into account in its action plan.

Routine nutrition activities are supported by the UNICEF, FAO, WFP and WHO. Advocacy and lobbying is being conducted with the private sector for its integration into the platform and the designation of focal points at the University of Comoros. A focal point has already been identified at the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment (INRAPE).

The National Policy on Nutrition and Food developed in 2012 is in the process of being signed. It will have to be revised to adopt a multi-sector approach.

From a legislative standpoint, the Comoros adopted: a Law on the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes in 2014 and a law on maternity leave in 2012. The decree implementing the food law passed in 2013 is currently being drafted.

Policies in the agriculture, education and health sectors and policy on poverty reduction all include nutrition. A study was conducted with consultants to analyses data from the most vulnerable populations which would enable a social protection policy to be developed.

Mobilizing resources for the national nutrition governance plan in the Comoros is a priority for 2014. Therefore, when the multi-sector platform is operational, an exceptional budget allocation will be made available in 2014 on the understanding that a budget line will be included from 2015.
2014 Baseline on Four SUN Processes
Comoros

2014 Scoring of Progress Markers

- Bringing people together into a shared space for action: 21%
- Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework: 28%
- Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework: 23%
- Financial Tracking and resource mobilization: 19%

1 Externally assessed by the SUN Movement Secretariat