Burkina Faso

Joined: June 2011

Highlights

- A network of nutrition journalists, the members of which have been trained in or are well informed about nutrition, contribute to the advocacy efforts and to the visibility of the nutrition and food security actions by providing information to local populations and through communication promoting a change in behaviour. A press rally was organised in several regions in 2013 and 2014.
- Programmes sensitive to nutrition will be better reflected in the national nutrition policy, which is under revision.
- Burkina Faso decentralises responsibilities for carrying out specific interventions at the system’s intermediate level.

*See page 29 for more information about 2015 scoring against each progress marker
The National Council for Dialogue on Nutrition (CNCN) was established in 2008 and is the designated multi-sectoral platform. It reports to the Ministry of Health and includes the ministries responsible for agriculture and food security; water and sanitation; social action and national solidarity and the economy and finances; education; trade; empowerment of women; scientific research; and secondary and higher education. This also includes civil society and the university environment, while the private sector is represented by the Federation of Agri-food Industries and the group of converters of oleaginous products (oil mills).

The nutrition policy is being reviewed to take better consideration of the multi-sectoral aspect of the fight against malnutrition. The country has committed to finalising its new national multi-sectoral nutrition plan (2016-2020) and to assess the financial resources necessary for implementing this by the end of 2015. This should help to make the various sectors more responsible.

The multi-sectoral common results framework was finalised in July 2015 during a restitution workshop on the mapping of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, which brought together various sectors, partners, civil society and the private sector. It must still be refined with the various sectors. The implementation of specific and/or sensitive interventions falls to those responsible at the middle and periphery of the system.

The funds earmarked for nutrition, classified in the sub-committee of the national budget for maternal and infant health are not easy to track. The implementation of the costed plan is primarily the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, with support from other ministries. The release of the Government’s financial commitments is hindered by the administrative bureaucracy and circumstances, whereas the funds dedicated to nutrition by partners are often for emergencies, making multi-year planning complicated.

The United Nations network is in place, coordinated by UNICEF, and a network of journalists in nutrition has been officially recognised. The civil society network for nutrition (RESONUT) is waiting for official recognition documents. On the other hand, there is no coordinator or work plan shared by donors.

Following the events of 30 and 31 October last year and the dissolution of the National Assembly, the work on nutrition conducted by the network of members of parliament has been discontinued.

The AGIR initiative (Alliance for Resilience) is led by the Ministry of Agriculture and considers nutrition in its second and fourth pillars.

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Several multi-year strategic sectoral plans include nutrition, especially those on: poverty reduction, economic development, education, sustainable development, agriculture, food and nutrition security and rural development.

The specific nutrition interventions are harmonised with the National Nutrition Policy. The social protection, food security, education, water hygiene and sanitation programmes and other sensitive interventions shall be better reflected in the revised national policy.

Burkina Faso also plans to improve its existing nutrition monitoring system before the end of 2015. To this end, a pilot project has been supported by WHO to include other nutrition indicators in the national and central collection software. There are several sectoral follow-up systems but the results are not pooled.

There are no funding guarantees for the implementation of various plans at drafted stage (strategic plan, micro-plan to fight micronutrient deficiencies, and so on), nor for the changeover plan at the infant and young child feeding level, which is being carried out. With the support of UNICEF, work has begun to assess the public and external funds invested in nutrition since 2011.