Cameroon

Joined: February 2013

Highlights

- The private sector network was launched during the Nutrition Business Forum in May 2014 and contributes to the scaling up of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- The network of members of parliament for the fight against malnutrition is also very active. An action plan of this network was drawn up for 2015.
- An interministerial committee on the fight against malnutrition has operations in the four most affected regions. The Minister Secretary General of the Prime Minister’s Office is the president of this coordination and strategic advisory body.

Under five stunting: 32.6%
Low-birth weight: 7.6%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: 20.4%
Under five wasting: 5.8%
Under five overweight: 6.5%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 41.5%

*data sources detailed in Annex 1
At the national level, coordination is carried out at several levels: within the Interministerial Committee on the fight against malnutrition and within the nutrition working groups at the central and regional level (four regions are concerned: extreme north, north, Adamawa and east). The nutrition working group meets every month. The multi-stakeholder platform does not yet have sufficient high-level coordination. A political focal point who is either a representative of the Prime Minister or of the President’s office is expected to be appointed.

The Interministerial Committee has been established and is in operation. Its president is the Minister Secretary General of the Prime Minister’s Office.

The civil society platform chaired by Helen Keller International includes various sectors (health, education and agriculture). The civil society platform is mapping actors and developing an action plan. The civil society platform’s activities have been revitalised in anticipation of its legal recognition and launch.

The United Nations network for the SUN Movement, under UNICEF leadership, is in operation. Invitations have been sent to other agencies (UNHCR, IFAD, UNFPA).

The French Development Cooperation Agency, representing donors, is working towards creating a platform for donors.

A private sector network for the SUN Movement was launched at the Business Forum on Nutrition (May 2014).

The SUN Movement Business Network was launched in 2014. A consultative framework, an implementing and monitoring mechanism as well as an investment fund for nutrition have been established.

A network of members of parliament for the fight against malnutrition is also very active.

The strategic guidance document on the fight against malnutrition in the regions of the north, the extreme north, Adamawa and the east has been approved by the Interministerial Committee and incorporates nutrition into the new strategies for rural development and food security, health, water practices, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), social protection, the advancement of women and educational actions.

Nutrition is included in the action plans of United Nations agencies, but tentatively in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Also, a travelling exhibition was held to raise the awareness of traditional leaders, administrative authorities and members of parliament for the drafting of the 2015-2020 Priority Action Plan on the fight against malnutrition. Admittedly, the efforts to implement and disseminate policies must be stepped up.

The costing of the plan can only be achieved once the multi-sectoral action plan is complete. There is currently no system for monitoring credit financing for nutrition activities and programmes. There is no specific budget line for nutrition.

Nevertheless, the advocacy helped to create a budget line on food for infants and young children in the medium-term expenses of the Ministry of Public Health.

The common results framework has not been developed yet, but the strategic guidance document on the fight against malnutrition has identified the priority areas which will be highlighted to obtain convincing results.

From the perspective of the programmes, direct interventions in the area of nutrition have focused on the “window of opportunity” in the first 1,000 days. The activities are centred on essential nutrition-related actions, the fight against micronutrient deficiencies through a major and large-scale campaign on food fortification and fortification at home using micronutrients in powder form, vitamin A, iron and folic acid supplements; the management of acute malnutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, deworming and maternal nutrition.

The share of the budget devoted to nutrition has not changed in the sectoral administrations. The budgeting exercise has, however, shown that indirect interventions take up over 90% of the sectors’ budget. With some partners, a major increase in resources has been recorded in 2014.

Progress reported through in-country self-assessment exercise