Haiti

Joined: June 2012

Highlights

- There is a network of journalists against hunger and a network of journalists for health and nutrition, which organise annual training days for journalists.
- The First Lady is committed to health activities including nutrition. In 2015, she stated that “breastmilk is the ideal formula for the nutrition of babies up to six months.”
- The Nutrition Technical Committee (CTN) and the food and nutritional security working group enable the Government and donors to have exchanges each month on the nutrition situation and to work together to prevent the overlapping of programmes and funding.

Looking back:
Progress reported through the 2014 Self-Assessment Exercise

- Under five stunting: 21.9%
- Low-birth weight: 19.1%
- 0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: 39.7%
- Under five wasting: 5.2%
- Under five overweight: 3.6%
- Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 37.1%

*Data sources detailed in Annex 1
The mandate of the National Commission to Combat Hunger and Malnutrition (COLFAM), which was previously responsible for the strategic guidance of the national strategic network against hunger and malnutrition (ABA GRANGOU), was not renewed when it expired in 2014. This structure, presided over by the First Lady of Haiti, consisted of representatives of the President’s Cabinet, the Prime Minister, associated ministries and Parliament.

In parallel, there are government-led coordination groups: the Nutrition Technical Committee (CTN) and a Food and Nutritional Security Technical Group (GTSAN) involving representatives of the Government, donors and various key stakeholders.

A national research platform has been created with the support of Harvest Plus, bringing together three ministries (agriculture, sustainable development and national education). The Ministry of Public Health and the Population is expected to be associated with it.

Over a dozen meetings have been arranged with members of civil society. The network of health and nutrition journalists of WHO and UNICEF, launched with Brazil’s support, is still active. The REACH mechanism, introduced at the start of 2015, is also currently in the process of defining its scope for intervention.

Haiti has an up-to-date national nutritional policy and a Strategic Nutrition Plan (2013-2018), and the new UNICEF nutrition strategy 2014-2017 is aligned to these. A communications plan has been finalised and shared with the SUN Movement Secretariat.

The Economic and Social Development Council (CDES), which is answerable to the President’s Office, is currently writing a document on the National Policy for Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security. A law on food fortification was voted on by the Senate in 2014-2015 and is due to be approved by the members of parliament.

A new national food and nutritional security plan which will run until 2025 is being drafted under the leadership of the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA), as part of a participatory approach and drawing upon existing documents and 15 measures proposed by the Price Stabilization Committee.

An agricultural recovery plan drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture is the Government’s main development focus, but the promotion of local food products and their importance for good nutrition could be reflected better in the programme on purchasing local agricultural products. The concept of “public health agriculture” has been advanced in a number of projects.

In May 2015, the Ministry of Public Health and the Population prioritised iodised salt production, with the support of USAID and via UNICEF, and this is now available in 10 health departments.

A task force involving the Ministry of National Education, Canada and the World Bank is working on a School Canteens Policy, which will incorporate the lessons learned from the evaluation under way, conducted by PAM, on school meals. This assessment concerns school canteens, micronutrient supplements and capacity building. In parallel, a programme, headed up and supported by the office of the First Lady and the Ministry of Public Health and the Population, has been launched to improve sanitation in schools.

Lastly, a new project for social protection aiming to reduce food insecurity and poverty, with a strong emphasis on nutrition, has been promoted by a consortium of CARE, PAM and ACF (funding by USAID).

The Government’s budget line for nutrition, created in 2013, has not been supplied. No funding was given for nutrition between 2012 and 2014. It is a priority to mobilise external financial resources above and beyond emergency funds; the preparation of the European Development Fund is a window of opportunity.