Kenya
Joined: August 2012

Highlights

- The SUN Business Network formed in 2015 and launched a landscape analysis to identify key areas of focus. This is the latest of already well established in-country networks (UN, government, donors, civil society) equipped with work plans and conveners.

- A Working Group on ‘Advocacy, Communication, Social Mobilisation’ (ACSM) has widely disseminated the 2013 Lancet series and the National Nutrition Action Plan in 42/47 counties. A draft ACSM strategy should be validated by August 2015.

- Counties have started developing their own nutrition action plans drawing from the national Common Results Framework; 7 have been completed, disseminated and costed.

Under five stunting: 26.0%
Low-birth weight: 5.6%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: 61.4%
Under five wasting: 4.0%
Under five overweight: 4.1%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 25.0%

*data sources detailed in Annex 1

*See page 29 for more information about 2015 scoring against each progress marker
The National Nutrition Action Plan (NNAP) 2012–2017 serves as a Common Results Framework (CRF) for the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. It focuses on high impact nutrition interventions, non-communicable diseases, overweight and obesity. In 2014, 66% of Kenya’s counties developed related nutrition action plans.

The NNAP has been costed (and 7 counties have costed their own plans), while costing of nutrition sensitive activities is ongoing with support from UNICEF and the involvement of the business sector.

The Food and Nutrition Security Policy was endorsed in 2012 by nine ministries. Nutrition is integrated in the following documents: Agriculture Sector Development Strategy; National Development and Poverty Reduction 2030 Strategy; Economic Strategy for Health and Employment Creation; National School Health Policy; National Social Protection Policy; however, guidelines for mainstreaming nutrition in sectoral policies are lacking. Recently, efforts have been geared towards inclusion of nutrition in the curriculum from Early Childhood Development to High School and in drafts of the Health Bill and Health Policy 2030. An advocacy, communication and social mobilisation strategy is to be finalised by August 2015.

Kenya’s Constitution recognises the right to be free from hunger and have access to basic nutrition. Nutrition legislation includes Breast Milk Substitute (BMS) control, nutrient-fortification, maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN), iron and folic acid supplementation of pregnant and lactating women.

As no CRF exists for nutrition sensitive actions, discussions are ongoing to identify key indicators and programs that different ministries can engage in. Policy analysis and financial tracking to determine the nutrition sensitivity of sectors will inform this process and help define what needs to be aligned within sectors.

Recently, a National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) feasibility assessment was jointly conducted with the EU.

The SUN Government Focal Point is assisted by a full-time UNICEF Technical Advisor, financed by the European Union (EU). With the official formation of the SUN Business Network on January 2015, Kenya now has four networks in place, each with terms of reference, work plans and identified conveners (respectively UNICEF; EU; GAIN; ACF).

All networks have recently welcomed new members and in addition, the Civil Society Alliance (CSA) has set up five decentralised alliances. Business, Donor and UN Networks have recently completed a mapping of their in-country constituencies (while it is ongoing for the CSA). Discussions are ongoing regarding the establishment of an academic platform.

The First Lady has been a nutrition patron since 2014 and a engagement strategy was drafted in 2015. CSA has been actively engaged with parliamentarians and a National Nutrition Symposium was organised by the government to ‘step up commitments to SUN in Kenya’ in February 2015 to sustain commitments to nutrition.

A four-year Nutrition Resilience Program worth €19 million has been granted by the EU to improve maternal and child nutrition and will be implemented by UNICEF and the Government. The DFID multyear plan for nutrition (2012-2015) equaled $USD 30 million.