Liberia

Joined: February 2014

Highlights

- Nutrition has been mainstreamed into policies for economic growth and development, poverty reduction, food and agriculture, health care, education and social development.

- The 2012 poverty reduction strategy places nutrition as a national priority and in the overall development agenda.

- The Investment Program for Agriculture (derived from CAADP) includes a specific component on food and nutrition to achieve nutritious food production and the provision of nutrition supplements.

Under five stunting: 32.1%
Low-birth weight: 9.7%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: 55.2%
Under five wasting: 5.6%
Under five overweight: 3.2%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 49.3%

*Data sources detailed in Annex 1
All sectors have different frameworks of implementation and reporting. The process of a common reporting framework is underway; meanwhile, the Nutrition Division of the MOHSW is currently coordinating reports of activities by the line Ministries and partners through monthly National Nutrition Cluster Coordination meetings.

The Ministry of Education and the MOHSW are in the process of harmonising all plans to address malnutrition. The MOHSW is already engaged in the process of developing a multi-sectoral, national nutrition implementation plan that fully embraces both nutrition-specific interventions as well as nutrition-sensitive actions.

Nutrition-sensitive documents and plans exist and there are recommendations to review and consolidate both food and nutrition policies and strategies. The Ebola situation, among others, was identified as hampering progress on the ground and the pace at which these aspiring commitments were expected to be honored. Completion of these documents should have been part of the planned priorities among the sectors.

The national strategy for Food Security and Nutrition was revised by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Education has developed a draft School Health and Nutrition strategy which will be reviewed by the government and relevant stakeholders.

Nutrition interventions have been a part of the essential package of services since 2011 and stunting reduction remains the key national priority. In order to reduce the stunting rate, a set of Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs) are being rolled out in five of Liberia’s 15 Counties. 

Nutrition partners are proactively involved in developing emergency plans to continue supporting these Counties even in the wake of the Ebola situation. Liberia has plans to scale up ENAs to the other ten Counties.

ENA training included all health workers and community volunteers.