Institutional Transformations in 2015 - 16

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Platform (PMSAN), institutionalised by Decree in 2014, brings together various players in a high-level steering committee and ten technical working groups. This system is coordinated by the deputy Chief of Staff to the second Vice President, with the support of a secretariat and the existing network coordinators (REACH, EU, Red Cross). Since 2015, the political context has been a hamper to the work of the PMSAN; the need to reinforce the decentralised community approach has now been recognised.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

A number of strategic documents testify to a coherent political and legal framework, including the 2014-2017 strategic Multi-Sectoral Food Security and Nutrition Plan (PMSAN); a national food fortification strategy; and the 2016-2025 National health policy. However, the legislation on maternity leave needs to be reviewed in order to be able to meet national directives concerning the feeding of infants and young children. Furthermore, the dissemination of validated policy documents needs to be improved, while at the same time consolidating the renewed commitments of parliamentarians. Finally, nutritional surveys are not conducted regularly.

Aligning actions around a common results framework

PMSAN is a reference document for the implementation of activities contributing to nutrition, in respect of which, certain pilot activities have been implemented. In 2015, during the course of establishing its costs, the Government, civil society and the United Nations agreed on the need to reach a consensus on a single list of priority actions corresponding to national priorities. This will serve as the basis for an action plan with more realistic associated costs, combined with a monitoring and evaluation system favouring the harmonisation of players’ actions.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Resource mobilisation is rendered difficult by the absence of an estimate of the costs of PMSAN, although the country’s political context has led to a reduction in budget allocations for nutrition and disbursements of funds from external partners. In order to mitigate these difficulties, Burundi is in the process of analysing the budget allocations for 2015 and 2016 and envisages implementing a budgetary monitoring plan, as well as a common Government fund to encourage sectors to align with national policies and programmes.

2016-17 PRIORITIES

- To redynamise the technical working groups of the Multi-Sectoral Platform
- To finish costing the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (2014-2017)
- To map the actions and actors influencing nutrition
- To initiate an integrated communication strategy for food security and nutrition.