The Gambia

Joined: July 2011
Population: 1.88 million

Institutional Transformations in 2015 - 16

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
The Gambia has functional Multi-Stakeholder Platforms. The political leadership engages through the National Nutrition Council (NNC), chaired by the Vice President, while the National Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) brings together representatives from ministries, academia, civil society and the UN since 2012.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
Since the Gambia updated its National Nutrition Policy 2010-2020, the country has mainstreamed nutrition into various sectorial policies, including the new Education Policy 2015-2025. The 2005 Food Act has been put into practice, through the Breastfeeding Promotion Regulation, Food Fortification and Salt Iodisation Regulation. Nutrition is integrated into the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and other UN agency country programmes.

Aligning actions around a common results framework
The Multi-Stakeholder Platform has proposed to create a common results framework (CRF) after the ongoing revision of the National Nutrition Policy 2010-2020 and the Nutrition Strategic Plan. This will build on the 2015 nutrition bottleneck analysis, the Nutrition Governance Country Implementation Plan - developed with the support of the UN Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) initiative - and a mapping exercise that will begin in November 2016, aiming to identify stakeholders, target beneficiaries, and nutrition-sensitive or nutrition-specific actions, among other things.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
The costed National Nutrition Strategy helps identify resources and funding gaps for nutrition. It has also been used by partners to determine the support needed for interventions, although it expired in 2015. There is a need for the Government to use the updated Strategy to guide national nutrition resource allocations. The Government has been steadily increasing this allocation, and other partners, including UNICEF and the World Bank, are strong nutrition supporters in the Gambia. Efforts are needed to better identify available resources and gaps.

2016-17 PRIORITIES

- Ensure the participation of stakeholders in the Platform, mainly civil society, the private sector and academia
- Develop a common results framework for nutrition.