Institutional Transformations in 2015 - 16

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

In March 2016, the Multi-Sectoral Platform successfully achieved its transition from being the food security and nutrition cluster (Ebola context) to a Technical Group for Nutrition and Food. Throughout this year, its members have been working on various issues, such as the nutritional situation in the region of Siguiri, the revision of university curricula, carrying out surveys, etc. The civil society platform is very active in advocacy for the involvement of community organisations in improving nutrition. The private sector has also been represented in the Technical Group for Nutrition and Food, with the support of the United Nations.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The Technical Group for Nutrition and Food coordinates and aligns stakeholder contributions with policy and legislation. The National Food and Nutrition Policy (2005) has been revised, which has made it possible to develop a strategic multi-sectoral food and nutrition plan for 2016-2020, validated in March 2016 and budgeted with the support of MQSUN consultants. Other revisions have taken place (The Code of Marketing for Breast-milk Substitutes and for vitamin A supplements and food fortification) and have been monitored by various workshops to raise awareness amongst the media, commercial operators and the general public. The first lady of Guinea has been named as a high-level ambassador for nutrition.

Aligning actions around a common results framework

The common results framework is an integral part of the recently developed multi-sectoral strategic plan. It is aligned with the sectoral policies affecting nutrition and the various annual work plans. It will be implemented progressively. Mapping has been carried out of the stakeholders and nutrition-related actions, in addition to various basic and SMART enquiries, with the aim of supporting the monitoring of activities. Civil society has initiated implementation of the national civil society observatory for nutrition.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Resources are still being financially monitored and mobilised in a very sectoral manner. Actions specific to nutrition are essentially being supported by the partners, based on their own resource monitoring and mobilisation system. For this reason, the financial aspects are rarely discussed in the Technical group for nutrition and food. For the government’s part, late disbursements delay the schedule for nutrition activities. The share of the budget allocated to health has increased from 3% to 5%. However, there is still no budget line in the national budget for nutrition-related activities.

2016-17 PRIORITIES

- Review and adopt relevant policy documents and legislation, such as the national nutrition and food policy documents, the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan, the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes
- Ensure the commitment of nutrition champions to position nutrition as a priority at all levels:
  - UNICEF supports the First Lady of Guinea to advocate for nutrition
  - Implement an accelerated food security and sustainable agricultural development programme
  - Scale up high-impact actions such as the ‘1,000 days’ project and the joint inter-agency project.