Institutional transformations in 2016-2017

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The multi-sectoral platform for nutrition (MSP) and the National Council for Dialogue on Nutrition (CNCN) of the Ministry of Health, meets twice a year. The United Nations, civil society (RESONUT), private sector and parliamentarian (REPASEN) networks are fully active and have appointed coordinators while the university and donor networks are being established. Although there are regional consultation frameworks along the lines of the CNCN, they are not fully operational, contributing only marginally nutrition-sensitive sectors. To improve this, institutional anchoring and accountability mechanisms must be improved. Advocacy has been undertaken with regional authorities to encourage mainstreaming nutrition into commune-level development plans. Artists have created songs to spread the word about nutrition.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

As the revised national nutrition policy was validated in 2016 and the strategic sectoral plans and policies that contribute to nutrition and the mainstreaming of nutrition into sectoral policies were examined (rural sector development, health development, food security and education), no noteworthy changes in legislation have been seen. Major gains have included the integration of nutrition as an essential component of human capital in the 2016-2020 National Social and Economic Development Plan (PNDES) and the validation of a communication, advocacy and social mobilisation strategy for nutrition in April 2017, in addition to which advocacy for a law on breast-milk substitutes is being pursued.

Aligning actions around a common results framework

The mapping of nutrition stakeholders and actions has enabled the multi-sectoral strategic plan for nutrition to be produced, including a common results framework, a monitoring and evaluation system, and budget estimate. Approved in May 2017, these documents are now being adopted politically. A multi-sectoral communication plan for nutrition has been prepared. While the common results framework interventions have been established, annual and sectoral workplans containing measurable targets must be developed, alongside a multi-sectoral information platform on nutrition. This is being established to ensure efficient implementation of actions.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Two studies on nutrition budget allocations of the State’s technical and financial partners were conducted in September 2016, revealing an increase in national resources devoted to nutrition: purchases of nutrition supplies by the Ministry of Health came to approximately USD 1.8 million (1 billion francs CFA) and supplementary funds could be allocated in the context of PNDES implementation. Advocacy for increased resources is continuing through the creation of a specific budget line. To mobilise resources, a partners’ conference is planned for the end of 2017 with the aim of financing the 2016-2020 multi-sectoral strategic plan.