Liberia

Joined: February 2014
Population: 4.50 million

Women Anaemia
15-49 years (%) 49.3

Under five overweight (%) 3.2

Under five wasting (%) 5.6

0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%) 55.2

Adult overweight (%) 25

Adult low birth weight (%) 4%

Adult obesity (%) 6.6

Adult diabetes (%) 7.8

Low-birth weight (%) 14

Under five stunting (%) 32.1

Institutional transformations in 2016-2017

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
Liberia is still in the process of setting up the SUN Movement Secretariat and a new Government Focal Point is being appointed, at present. A multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) is in the process of being developed, however, work is ongoing to leverage political will for nutrition. Although the Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health (MOH) is convening stakeholders across sectors around nutrition issues, there is a need to involve more stakeholders, e.g. line ministries, civil society, and the private sector. Strengthening of sub-national structures for nutrition will be prioritised, once national-level structures are in place.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
Nutrition has been mainstreamed into policies concerning economic growth and development, poverty reduction, food and agriculture, health care, education and social development. The multi-sectoral Food Security and Nutrition Strategy, developed in 2010, identifies the national priorities to be addressed to ensure food security and good nutrition for all. The Ministry of Education continues working on developing a school health and nutrition strategy, with input from the developing MSP. Overall, greater inter-ministerial collaboration on nutrition issues is a priority.

Aligning actions around a common results framework
A common results framework (CRF) is yet to be defined. This means that sectors still have their own implementation frameworks and carry out separate reporting. A common reporting framework is in the process of being developed, alongside a Zero Hunger Strategic Plan. The MOH is in the process of developing a multi-sectoral national nutrition implementation plan, which includes both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions. This will include both medium and long-term implementation objectives and is expected to be finalised by early 2018.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
The Government of Liberia remains committed to tracking domestic and external resources mobilised for nutrition. However, a costed multi-sectoral plan for nutrition is yet to be developed.

2017–2018 PRIORITIES

- Set up the SUN Movement Secretariat and appoint a new SUN Focal Point;
- Establish the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) and work towards having a common results framework (CRF) in place;
- Review and develop a national nutrition policy and multi-sectoral strategic plan by 2018;
- Scale up nutrition-sensitive interventions (essential nutrition actions) to all parts of the country.