Institutional transformations in 2016-2017

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The National Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCFN) meet quarterly to review and align activities of relevant ministries, departments and agencies with the National Food and Nutrition Policy. The multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) brings together representatives from six SUN Networks including the Government, United Nations agencies, donors, the SUN Business Network – which was set up in 2016-2017 - Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) and academia. The Office of the Vice President, Ministers of the Federal Government and Governors of State Governments (Kaduna and Kano) have been increasingly involved in nutrition-related issues in the country. While the networks have demonstrated the capacity to track and report on their own contributions and achievements, efforts are required to coordinate better and deliver effective results against agreed work plans.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

National policies and plans have been developed through a consultative process of engaging partners. National advocacy and communication strategies have been developed and translated into the local language. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) regulates the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. The Standards Organisation of Nigeria guide food manufacturers and maintains sanctions for products based on quality. The implementation of 18 weeks' maternity leave for mothers was fast-tracked by the Ministry for Labour and Employment, following the Abuja Breastfeeding Declaration in 2016.

Aligning actions around a common results framework

The institutional structure for the coordination of policy implementation and individual stakeholder roles are identified in the revised National Food and Nutrition Policy. The Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP) commissioned a mapping of the nutrition stakeholders’ activities in-country, and the CS-SUNN mapped actions of civil society associations. Efforts are being made to strengthen the nutrition surveillance system. Nutrition-relevant ministries, departments and agencies have annual work plans and have recruited nutrition desk officers.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The State Governments of Kano, Kaduna, Gombe, Sokoto Bauchi have made financial commitments on to scale up nutrition and have redeemed their pledges. The engagement of a Parliamentarian, Senator Lanre Tejuoso, led to an increase in the budget for Health and Nutrition Emergency Response Project (HNERP). The budget allocation for nutrition in the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) from 400 million Naira (USD 1.1 million) to 1.9 billion Naira (USD 5.3 million). The USD 350 million loan from the World Bank for a period of five years has triggered the mobilisation of additional resources from other sources such as the Dangote Foundation.

2017–2018 PRIORITIES

• Develop a common narrative and joint statements to effectively influence policy-making in favour of gender equality;
• Promote the gender-responsive integration of nutrition into national policies and other related development actions among key stakeholders;
• Address gaps in financial reporting mechanisms, tracking audits and developing a comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy.