SCALING UP NUTRITION AROUND THE WORLD IN 2017-2018

West and Central Africa
INTRODUCTION

West and Central Africa is the largest SUN region and comprises 21 countries at different stages of their scaling up nutrition efforts. The region includes some of the earliest members to join the Movement (with 8 countries joining SUN in 2011), and 2 of its most recent members, Gabon and Central African Republic (both of whom joined the Movement in late 2016 and early 2017). 15 countries are francophone, while 5 countries are anglophone. Guinea-Bissau is the only lusophone country.2

Most countries in the region have made strides towards creating an enabling environment for country partners to work hand-in-hand for nutrition results. 19 out of 21 countries have created, 1

1 West African SUN countries include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Central African SUN countries include: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon.

2 Unless cited otherwise, data presented in this section are from the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) database. These data have been compiled from various sources, as listed in the SUN MEAL Framework Baseline Document, which is available at: https://scalingupnutrition.org/progress-impact/monitoring-evaluation-accountability-and-learning-meal/.
or are in the process of creating, multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs), and the 2018 Joint-Assessment scores—undertaken by all countries except 1—show an increase from a median of 52 per cent in 2014-2016 to 61 per cent in 2017-2018. However, economic development challenges, fragile governance and effects of conflict and climate-related stressors threaten progress seen in many countries over the past years.

Looking ahead, concerted efforts to fight these underlying drivers of malnutrition and ensuring the sustainability of actions will be essential to ensure good nutrition for all women, men and children in West and Central Africa.

In March 2018, 14 countries in the region were listed as “least developed countries”, with several countries being landlocked.
A SNAPSHOT OF NUTRITION AND DIETS ACROSS THE LIFECYCLE

Although trends vary greatly from country to country in this region, certain parallels can be drawn vis-à-vis malnutrition and food security trends.

The stunting picture – in terms of levels and changes – is very diverse. Ghana and Mauritania show the largest percentage of stunting reductions over time. Stunting affects a median of 30 per cent of girls and boys under five in the 21 countries (with a range of 17 to 44 per cent), while the median rate of wasting is at 8 per cent (with a range of 3 to 15 per cent). In both West and Central Africa, the poorest children have significantly higher rates of wasting (around 1.5 times higher) than the richest children. But, several countries are making encouraging progress. Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia are on track to meet the World Health Assembly stunting target, with Benin and Ghana on track to meet the wasting target.

West and Central Africa has the lowest levels of child overweight (with a median of 2.5 per cent and a range between 0.9 to 8.9 per cent). Almost half of the 23 SUN countries that are on course to halt the rising rate of overweight children under five can be found in West and Central Africa. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone are on track to meet the WHA overweight target.

The breastfeeding picture is quite varied. Less than half (or 44 per cent) of infants are breastfed within an hour after birth. About one-third of infants are exclusively breastfed (with a median of 33 per cent). Togo is the “leader of the pack” with an exclusive breastfeeding rate of 65.4 per cent, followed by Guinea-Bissau (52.5 per cent) and Ghana (at 52.1 per cent). Chad has a very low exclusive breastfeeding rate of 0.1 per cent. However, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone are on track to meet the WHA breastfeeding target. 18 out of 21 countries are performing extremely well in ensuring continued breastfeeding of girls and boys at 1 year old – with 11 countries having rates above 90 per cent.

GHANA IS 1 OF ONLY 6 SUN COUNTRIES ON TRACK TO MEET GLOBAL STUNTING AND WASTING TARGETS

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7. Ibid. As per this data the following countries have rates above 90 per cent: Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Rates from Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone fall right below 90 per cent, meaning they are on par.
Anaemia in girls and women is a key malnutrition concern in West and Central Africa. 57.2 per cent of pregnant women and 47.7 per cent of non-pregnant women suffer from anaemia. There has been little progress towards the target for anaemia, not only in West and Central Africa, but also globally. Liberia and Ghana have made the most progress, however, 12 countries have seen an increase in their anaemia rates. Anaemia also affects half of adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 years (with ranges between 40 and 64 per cent) in the region – based on the 14 countries with data available. 70 per cent of children under five in this region are anaemic (with a range between 58 and 86 per cent, based on the 17 countries with data).

Chad, Central African Republic and Mali have been ranked in the top 10 globally for healthy dietary patterns, while Sierra Leone has been ranked highly (place 8) for consumption of fewer unhealthy items. Today, however, trends show increased consumption of unhealthy foods and nutrients in the region. Between 2000 and 2016 there has been a steady increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescents and adults. The median prevalence of overweight and obesity for adolescent girls stands at 14 per cent (6 per cent for adolescent boys), whereas this is at 37 per cent for adult women and 22 per cent among men.

Infant and young child feeding practices across the region are quite poor. Only 7 per cent (median) of children 6-23 months of age receive a minimum acceptable diet (with a range between 3 and 17 per cent) – with only 13 per cent (if looking at the median) receiving minimum diet diversity (with a range between 5 and 34 per cent). Over half of all girls and boys under five (with a median of 52 per cent) suffer from vitamin A deficiency. The region saw a fall in the prevalence and number of undernourished people between 1999-2001 and 2009-2011, but, in subsequent years (2014-2016), there has been a rise, hitting Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone the hardest.

Of the 2 sub-regions, Central Africa’s prevalence rate of undernourished people in 2017 was significantly higher (at 26 per cent) than that of West Africa (at 15 per cent). Countries in West and Central Africa are amongst some of the most food insecure globally. Almost one-third of women, men and their families face severe food insecurity in West Africa, while this figure is at almost 50 per cent in Central Africa. Of the 20 countries most dependent on food imports globally, 9 are in the region. In 2017, 13 countries were dependent on external food assistance, with 5 countries having at least 20 per cent of their population in a situation of crisis.

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9 Supra note 4.
11 Supra note 4.
West and Central Africa is greatly affected by natural disasters, conflict and humanitarian crises. 10 countries have high humanitarian risk contexts, while 5 countries are at very high risk. This heightens the probability of infectious disease, food insecurity and inadequate access to essential nutrition and health services.

Across SUN regions, West and Central Africa has the highest (median) annual GDP growth per capita. However, 40 per cent of women, men and their families (median of 44 per cent) live below the international poverty line - although poverty levels range from 6 per cent (in Mauritania, data from 2014) to 77 per cent (in Guinea-Bissau, data from 2010).

The existence and coverage of social protection programmes in this region is very low. However, Niger is at 20 per cent coverage, Côte d’Ivoire is at 27 per cent, Sierra Leone at 30 per cent and Mauritania is at 45 per cent. Creating safety nets for the most vulnerable is essential for lasting success.

In terms of access to basic sanitation services, the region scores the lowest - a median of 22 per cent have this access – which is key for nutrition results.

The perpetuation of malnutrition is closely linked to the status of women and girls, and unless action is taken, malnutrition is likely to be a burden passed on from one generation to the next. In certain areas, countries have made substantial progress over the past decades. In Côte d’Ivoire the rate of girls completing primary school increased from 33 per cent in 2000 to 56 per cent in 2015, while Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone have closed the gender gap in primary school enrolment.

Across the board, girls in the region still have lower levels of educational attainment than boys. In Chad, girls’ enrolment is less than half that of boys. West and Central Africa has the highest proportion of girls married by the age of 18 (with a regional median of 36 per cent versus 24 per cent in other SUN countries) and the highest adolescent fertility rate (median 120 births per 1,000 women 15-19 years, versus 71 for other SUN countries). The World Economic Forum Gender Gap Index shows that Cameroon (ranked 87), Senegal (ranked 91), Liberia (ranked 107), Guinea (ranked 113) and Benin (ranked 116) have seen progress in closing their gender gap in 2017-2018. Benin and Guinea have closed more than 80 per cent of their gap in economic participation and opportunity.

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14 Please note there is no data from 7 countries in this region.
REACHING THE SUN MOVEMENT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In 2018, 20 out of 21 countries\(^{18}\) undertook their Joint-Assessment by bringing together their nutrition communities. These assessments show encouraging progress – with an increase in the median total score from 52 per cent in 2014-2016 to 61 per cent in 2017-2018.

EXPAND AND SUSTAIN AN ENABLING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Most countries in the region are progressing in ensuring an enabling environment for nutrition. 16 countries have a functioning multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) in place, with Congo, Gabon and Liberia being in the process of setting up their MSPs.\(^{20}\) MSPs exist at the decentralised level in 13 countries – with Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mauritania being in the process of decentralising theirs. In Benin, for instance, MSPs exist in 40 out of 77 municipalities today.

Focal points in the region are placed at different levels, within a range of ministries. In 9 SUN countries, the focal point is positioned within the offices of the President (Benin and Congo), Vice President (Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone) or Prime Minister (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea). This strengthens their ability to convene the nutrition community in the country. In 9 countries, the SUN focal point is placed within the Ministry of Health.

In 2017-2018, national-level MSPs work more across stakeholder groups for the best possible impact. 18 countries report working with civil society, 12 work with businesses, 11 have a UN convener and 13 countries have a donor convener. UN Networks for SUN exist in all countries, with 7 Networks deemed to function well today. Civil Society Alliances exist in 16 countries, with Alliances in Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal being highly ranked in terms of functionality. A SUN Business Network exists and works well in Nigeria, with Business Networks in early stages of development in Côte d’Ivoire and Mali.

A key result from 2017-2018 is the mobilisation of high-level advocates for nutrition, which is key to ensure that nutrition remains a top priority. 8 countries have mobilised the media, parliamentarians and champions in 2018, compared to only 3 countries in 2016. An important emerging regional trend is the development of parliamentary networks for nutrition – to harness their legislative and budgetary powers. More countries are also collaborating with academia with 13 out of 20 countries harnessing their role.

The 2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering, held in Abidjan in November, brought together a range of high-level advocates for nutrition. Côte d’Ivoire received the SUN Country Team Award at the 2017 SUN Global Gathering, for their dedication and championship for nutrition. Mr. Emmanuel Koffi Aaboutou, Deputy Director of the Office of the Prime Minister and SUN Government Focal Point, and Dr Patricia Ngoran-Theckly, Coordinator of the National Nutrition Programme and SUN Government Technical Focal Point, accepted the award.

Dr Mohamed Ag Bendech, of Mali, was given a Lifetime Award for his dedication to improve nutrition in his country, but also on the Continent, as a whole.

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\(^{18}\) Guinea-Bissau is the only country in the region who did not undertake the SUN Joint-Assessment in 2018.

\(^{20}\) Central African Republic and Togo have not set up multi-stakeholder platforms.
PRIORITISING AND INSTITUTIONALISING EFFECTIVE ACTIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD NUTRITION

As is the case for other SUN regions, West and Central Africa varies greatly in their ability to ensure a coherent legal and policy framework for nutrition.

Democratic Republic of the Congo and Niger are the only 2 countries that explicitly guarantee the right to adequate food in their Constitutions. The right to food is implicitly protected as part of broader rights in the Constitutions of Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Togo. Given the ongoing conflicts and climate-related stressors in many of the region’s countries, the ability to realise the right to food varies greatly, as is the case for countries with a weak level of constitutional protection.

Across regions, West and Central Africa has the best median score with regards to the integration of malnutrition in National Development Plans. 11 of the 15 top-ranked countries in Africa for the extent to which nutrition features in their national development plans are from this region.

4 out of the 5 SUN countries who have ratified the ILO Maternity Protection Convention 2000, (No. 183) can be found in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal). 15 countries have maternity protection laws or regulations in place. Gabon, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo allow for fathers to take up to 10 days’ paid leave upon the birth of their child, covered under family allowance leave. Having said that, more can be done to ensure gender equality and promote and protect breastfeeding in the region. While 13 countries have some legal measures in place to prevent aggressive marketing of breast-milk substitutes, 8 have none. Benin, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana have full provisions in law. Ghana is the region’s highest performer when it comes to baby-friendly health facilities, with 35 per cent of facilities designated as baby-friendly, but the median is only 4 per cent among the 9 countries with data for this indicator.

About half of the countries have mandatory food fortification legislation in place for at least one staple food (e.g. wheat or maize) as well as salt and oil. 86 per cent (or 18 out of 21) of countries have mandatory iodised salt legislation in place and over three-quarters of households (median 77 per cent) have access to iodised salt. Central African Republic and Mali (or 2 out of 6 SUN countries across the Movement) have put in place healthy diet policies to restrict the marketing of foods and beverages to children, reduce the salt/sodium consumption and limit saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars or salt.

IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE ACTIONS ALIGNED WITH COMMON RESULTS

More and more, West and Central African SUN countries are aligning actions around common results and strengthening capacities to ensure more coherence. 15 SUN countries have put in place common results frameworks (CRFs), 14 of which have action plans. 13 out of 15 of these CRFs bring together various sectors through nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific actions. Only 6 CRFs have monitoring and evaluation plans.

In 2018, Guinea and Togo have developed and approved their national nutrition policies, in collaboration with their MSPs, while Benin and Burkina Faso are developing theirs. National plans primarily focus on addressing undernutrition, as reflected by the greater frequency of countries with plans that include WHA targets for stunting, wasting, and anaemia. While this is understandable, given the more common types of malnutrition in the region, it will be important for countries to consider the prevention and control of overweight and obesity throughout the lifecycle.

EFFECTIVELY USING AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR NUTRITION

16 of the 21 countries have, over the past years, conducted a national budget analysis of spending for nutrition. A key result from 2018 is that a record-breaking 11 countries, the highest number across regions, undertook the SUN financial tracking exercise – with Central African Republic, Gabon, Mali and Sierra Leone doing this for the first time. This shows that countries are increasingly using financial information to advocate for more and better investments to bridge gaps. 10 CRFs are costed, with Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ghana in the process of costing theirs.

The level of spending for nutrition-specific interventions is the lowest across SUN regions, estimated at a median of USD 0.1 per each girl or boy under five. Only a few countries have a nutrition-specific budget line and when it exists, spending has proven difficult to track. In addition, many fragile countries report that most funding is going to emergency and short-term interventions, while preventive nutrition interventions remain largely under-funded.

Over half of countries in West and Central Africa have seen donor spending for nutrition more than USD 10 per stunted girl or boy under five. However, the total spending by donors on high-impact nutrition-specific interventions is less than USD 1 per child under five in 13 of 21 countries. The ratio of nutrition-specific to nutrition-sensitive donor spending ranges widely (from 19 per cent to 96 per cent), exceeding 50 per cent in 12 out of 21 countries. Overall, less than 50 per cent of countries report financial alignment with donors.

Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire and Mali have been added to the list of countries that could benefit from innovative funding sources, such as the Global Financing Facility (GFF). Using investment cases to prompt resource mobilisation is essential to enable and ensure that nutrition is prioritised in national budgets.
Although progress, especially vis-à-vis the SUN Movement strategic objectives, is palpable across the West and Central African region, sustaining and scaling up effective actions are needed for lasting human impact. Priority actions should be to increase the promotion and protection of breastfeeding – especially in the first 6 months, and ensuring more infants and older children receive enough nutritious food. Building social protection floors – or safety nets – will be key, especially with regards to mitigating fragility. Making sure that individuals at the highest levels of the executive power have nutrition at the top of their political agenda will also go a long way – to cement nutrition as a lasting priority also following elections. This could also make a big difference in ensuring enough resources go towards nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific actions. Working towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and adolescent girls will be essential.
SCALING UP NUTRITION IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: STORIES OF CHANGE

BENIN CAN! SCALING UP NUTRITION AT THE DECENTRALISED LEVEL

In Benin, the preamble of the Strategic Development Plan for Food and Nutrition (PS DAN), the reference document guiding nutrition efforts, states: “The PSDAN represents a new participatory and accountability approach (...) with project managers being the municipalities themselves, with donors being invited to step in to provide financial support”.

Since 2011, municipalities in Benin have been encouraged to integrate nutrition into their development plans - with a dedicated budget line and a focal point to boost efforts. In 2018, 40 municipalities (out of 77) have decentralised their nutrition efforts and set up a Cadre Communal de Concertation (CCC) chaired by the mayor, alongside locally elected officials and decentralised health, education, social protection and agriculture services. These ‘CCCs’ also work with civil society organisations and women’s groups and meet on a quarterly basis to coordinate interventions, monitor activities, review progress, and fundraise.

To accompany these efforts, advocacy targeting all 12 governors of Benin has had a domino effect: many governors have then requested mayors to consider nutrition when drafting their development plans and voting for a budget. The National Association of Benin Municipalities (ANCB) represents these municipalities in the national multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), CAN. In 2014, the Adja – Ouèrè municipality was awarded the prize for best municipality-led nutrition efforts.

The Governor of Couffo, Mr. Christophe Megbedji was nominated to be a SUN Nutrition Champion in 2016.
THE UN NETWORK IN SIERRA LEONE SPEARHEADS AND PARTNERS UP FOR POLITICAL NUTRITION DIALOGUE

The UN Network for SUN took great advocacy strides in Sierra Leone, leading up to the Country’s presidential and parliamentary elections, held in March 2018. Seizing windows of opportunity such as the elections and national planning processes, parliamentarians and running candidates were strategically targeted to ensure that nutrition would be placed high on the political agenda of the new Government.

A Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Overview (MNO), which provides a visual narration of the nutrition situation in the country, show that while moderate stunting and wasting has decreased, severe forms have increased. The MNO analyses trends across multiple sectors, including indictors ranging from breastfeeding rates to food insecurity, adolescent pregnancy and women’s empowerment. It also highlights which geographical areas are most in need of action.

A comprehensive mapping was also used, looking at nutrition-specific and sensitive programming supported by all relevant stakeholders – from Government to the UN, civil society and donors. This mapping generated valuable coverage data critical to identifying gaps, overlaps and potential areas where efficiencies can be enhanced, to maximise impact.

These findings were complemented by a Policy and Plan Overview (led by the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger, REACH, Facilitator), which assessed nutrition-specific and sensitive policy commitments, in light of the current needs (MNO) and existing programmes. The discrepancy, once identified, was taken a step further through advocacy.

A critical ingredient of success was the coming together of multiple stakeholders, ranging from donors (especially Irish Aid), civil society, the private sector and UNN – complemented by the hands-on support of the REACH Facilitator, to lobby as ‘One’ for concrete political nutrition commitments. A breakfast meeting was held with members of parliament, to discuss the country’s nutrition needs – culminating in a declaration by parliamentarians during a televised dialogue. This domino effect prompted the enactment of a Food and Feed Safety Bill later that day. Just two weeks after, 14 registered political parties included food and nutrition security, as well as teenage pregnancy and WASH in their respective manifestos. These measures have kept nutrition on the political agenda irrespective of the election outcomes.
REINVIGORATING DONOR COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN MALI
- FOR HUMAN IMPACT

Canada aims to contribute to the strategic objectives of the SUN Movement by strengthening an enabling policy environment and institutionalising effective measures to contribute to eradicate malnutrition in all its forms in Mali. A longstanding supporter of the Movement across the world, Canada sees nutrition and gender equality as key issues of accountability and human dignity. This has led to Canada’s Ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Mr. Louis Verret, showing his personal commitment, alongside his team, and has become the donor convenor for the SUN Donor Network in the country.

The SUN Government Focal Point in Mali, Mr. Djibril Bagayoko, took the initiative to revitalise this important group, that also brings together UN agencies, USAID, and the national Civil Society Alliance. Canada’s role in this Network is to ensure that more donors, and the right donors are brought together, and that their financial and technical assistance is harmonised and aligned with national plans and policies – always ensuring that nutrition remains a key political priority. A roadmap has been developed for 2018, and monthly meetings are held – showing efforts to sustain commitment and ensure the success of this Network.

In July, under the guidance of the Government and the Canadian Ambassador, a high-level meeting was convened. It brought together 19 Malian ministries who collaborate on bringing the Multi-Sectoral National Action Plan for Nutrition to life, alongside multilateral and bilateral development cooperation actors. This event was an important step towards cementing governmental and development cooperation partners’ work to scale up nutrition and key to align financial resources and avoid duplication of actions.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Food and Nutrition Council (CAN), a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform, has this year developed a workplan that is currently being implemented. Participation in its meetings has been increased and its accountability strengthened. Participatory local governance is also developing through multi-stakeholder platforms at county and village levels, which coordinate their efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2. Consultation frameworks are in place in 40 municipalities and 11 regions, and there are Food and Nutrition Oversight Committees (CSAN) in some 800 villages.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The national nutrition policy is being developed, informed by a diagnostic analysis of sectoral policies. Many sectoral policies, such as health, agriculture, pregnant women and nursing mothers, children and adolescents, school meals, have nutrition components. This is pending verification of their consistency with the national nutrition policy. Nutrition advocacy is moving ahead, due to a national communication strategy, the creation of a network of parliamentarians and the training of journalists, resulting in the integration of nutrition into national and municipal-level development plans.

Aligning actions around common results

The common results framework (CRF) for chronic malnutrition 2015-2016 has now been budgeted for and implemented at the national and municipal level by all sectoral stakeholders through annual workplans, coordinated by CAN regional offices. Partners such as United Nations agencies, donors and civil society have aligned their programmes with national and sectoral priorities. Monitoring and evaluation systems are in place, supported by performance reviews of ministries. However there is not yet joint monitoring of the CRF with all partners, despite regular six-monthly reviews.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The Results-based National Nutrition Plan (PANAR) is budgeted for and monitored, with an allocation of nutrition-related funding to be tracked over 5 years. Advocacy efforts to the African and world nutrition days, as well as parliamentarians, and funding for nutrition projects is gradually increasing. However, the disbursement of government funding needs to be improved.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Finalise the National Nutrition Plan and update and cost the Strategic Food and Nutrition Development Plan (PSDAN);
- Establish an operational joint monitoring and evaluation system for the CRF;
- Finalise the operationalisation of the CRF at the municipal level;
- Establish a system to map annual funding and organise a resource mobilisation roundtable;
- Increase the amount of resources allocated to school meals and develop actions for the early years.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
A Mother and Child Food and Nutrition Technical Secretariat has been created in the Health Ministry to strengthen coordination. Formalised by Decree, this secretariat receives official government funding, Regional Nutrition Consultation Councils (CRCN) and Regional Food Security Councils (CRSA) are barely operational and lack a framework for dialogue with national-level institutions. Guidelines have been created for the integration of nutrition into town-level and regional development plans. Finally, networks are increasingly operational and have contributed to development of advocacy materials.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
The National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) and the National Health Development Plan (PND) include nutrition, and the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy was adopted in 2018. The new multi-sectoral nutrition policy 2018-2027 is still pending adoption by the Council of Ministers. It includes gender, adolescence, women’s empowerment, Early childhood development and nutrition in emergencies. Lastly, the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan 2018-2020, which is in the process of being adopted, in addition to a revision of the International Code on the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

Aligning actions around common results
Despite the medium and long-term objectives of the common results framework, the lack of workplans with measurable targets to guide implementation is an obstacle to their scaling up. There is no formal system for monitoring contributions to the collective progress of the multi-stakeholder platform. However, a new national nutrition information platform (PNIN) has been established with the full involvement of key stakeholders including the Department of Sectoral Statistics. Its website will disseminate and monitor results.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
Budget analysis of the multi-sectoral strategic plan 2016-2020 identified available funding and gaps in need of filling to be identified, in preparation for the donor roundtable. Lobbying of parliamentarians has led to the creation and effective funding of a budget line. The Government and donors have also announced increased allocations in order to buy therapeutic foods, to scale up the Infant and Young Child Feeding Plan (ANJE) and to operationalise the Technical Secretariat. However, the take-up rate of funds allocated to nutrition remains weak.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Start implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- Finalise the establishment of the national nutrition information platform;
- Develop a detailed multi-sectoral annual workplan;
- Operationalise capacity-building and communication plans;
- Operationalise coordination through the Ministry of Health Food and Nutrition Technical Secretariat (STAN);
- Strengthen action plans for nutrition in emergencies and advocacy for funding.
Cameroon

Population: 24.05 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Multi-Sectoral Interministerial Committee to Combat Malnutrition has met twice and has an annual work plan. The Multi-Stakeholder Platform meets monthly and has two focal points: one political and one technical. Each network also has its own action plan, with the exception of the private sector and the media, which have not yet been formed as Networks. Regional nutrition work groups are in place in the four most acutely affected regions of the country. However, decentralised local authorities are not yet very involved in the coordination, planning and implementation of nutrition actions.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

To make nutrition a national priority, the Multi-Stakeholder Platform has lobbied parliamentarians, ministers and communities. This led to adoption of the Zero Hunger by 2030 strategy and the country programming frameworks policy. There are plans to develop an advocacy strategy to help the operationalisation of these policies. The application of legal and political frameworks for nutrition, jointly developed with all national nutrition stakeholders, is regularly monitored on the ground to ensure the effectiveness of nutrition actions.

Aligning actions around common results

A Common Results Framework, for which a budget is currently being devised, has developed based on the criteria and characteristics of ‘good’ national nutrition plans. It is used as an accountability framework for all sectors and will be shortly submitted for Government approval. Its implementation has already begun, with action plans in place for each network. A national capacity-building plan supported by the academic network is also being implemented. Monitoring and evaluation (SMART, DHIS2) was carried out to document implementation and draw on lessons learned to improve nutrition impacts.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The Common Results Framework, currently being budgeted for, will help further mobilise Government and donor resources. Despite there being Government allocations for nutrition-sensitive actions, there is no Governmental budget line dedicated to nutrition. In July 2018, a nutrition forum allowed for the organisation of a donor round table to mobilise funds. Lastly, as part of the Global Financing Facility project, which aims to improve the performance of the health system, nutrition financing will be mobilised under the national investment portfolio.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Create a budget for the operational plan and approval of strategic documents;
- Implementation of activities planned for 2018 by the various SUN platforms;
- SUN focal point to strengthen coordination;
- Organisation of a national workshop on chronic malnutrition;
- Organisation of a national forum on nutrition in July 201.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The National Food and Nutrition Council (CNNA) is operational and held its first meeting in September 2017. Its permanent, multi-stakeholder technical committee includes 8 networks: parliamentarians, journalists, champions, United Nations, donors, scientists, civil society, and the private sector, and meets monthly. The 5 regional food and nutrition committees (CRNAs) in the pilot regions are operational, with focal points appointed to each committee. An inter-network action plan has existed since 2017 based on their respective work plans, but a monitoring mechanism is yet to be created.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The Inter-sectoral Nutrition and Food Action Plan (PAINA) and the Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategy were adopted in September 2017. The breast-milk substitutes marketing code was updated in 2017 and is in the process of being adopted. A costed chapter on nutrition is included in the 2017-2021 National Development Plan. The minimum package of activities offered by health centres now incorporates nutrition indicators. A national prevention and management system for food and nutrition crises has been set up and a process for the development of national food recommendations has been launched.

Aligning actions around common results

The CNNA adopted the PAINA in September 2017 and the PAINA common results framework is currently being finalised. Technical and financial partners, civil society and the United Nations are working in alignment with Government objectives, with budgeted action plans. Several mappings have taken place (for example of the nutrition cluster and donors) in order to have an overview of all actors’ interventions. A WASH in nutrition strategy and a nutrition communication and advocacy strategy have been developed and validated. A 2018-2021 United Nations nutrition agenda has also been developed and validated.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

An analysis of PAINA funding shortfalls has been made. Since data on funding for nutrition interventions are not held centrally, it is difficult to estimate shortfalls for such interventions. However, each stakeholder analysed its needs and funding gaps. For State institutions, monitoring of budget lines is still approximate and requires significant improvements. Some donors, such as the European Union, have promised funding within the food and nutrition security framework of the 11th European Development Fund.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Recruitment of a consultant to finalise the common results framework;
- Adoption of a code on marketing of breast-milk substitutes;
- Final validation of the communication and advocacy strategy by the Permanent Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition (CTPNA);
- Establishment of CRNAs in new regions;
- Finalisation of the food and nutrition guide and national food recommendations;
- Development of a tool for planning, mapping and monitoring;
- Carry out research into the cost of diets.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
The coordination mechanism is well established and operational, with a Food and Nutrition Security Multi-Sectoral Technical Committee in place, which will soon be regulated by a Prime Ministerial decree. This technical committee is to become a national multi-stakeholder platform that includes all relevant actors.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
The establishment and mobilisation of the multi-sectoral technical committee has contributed to: the development of the national food and nutrition security policy; the drafting of a 2018 food and nutrition security action plan; and creation of a specific road-map for nutrition activities related to the Plan for Recovery and the Consolidation of Peace in CAR 2017-2021 (RCPCA). There are other plans and strategies that incorporate nutrition in certain sectoral ministries, such as agriculture, poverty reduction and development, health and education. There is no communication and advocacy strategy.

Aligning actions around common results
Pending establishment of the Common Results Framework, an annual action plan related to the RCPCA has been developed. This roadmap is a first step and evaluation will help strengthen consolidation of a future Common Results Framework. The Multi-Stakeholder Platform will help in its development.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
The 2018 action plan has not yet been budgeted for, with the financial resources needed not clearly identified, including from the Government’s own funds. Ongoing budget analysis will lead to the development of forecasting tools for better programming and advocacy, in order to ensure regular multi-year funding and effective monitoring and evaluation of activity implementation.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Strengthen the legal and institutional framework for nutrition;
- Promote and protect infant and young child feeding;
- Integrate nutritional interventions into primary health care;
- Develop community-based nutrition interventions;
- Strengthen food supplementation and fortification and improve the feeding of specific vulnerable groups;
- Strengthen the nutritional surveillance system and capacity to respond to nutrition emergencies.
Congo

Joined: October 2013
Population: 5.26 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The National Ad Hoc Committee to Combat Malnutrition, established in 2017 with government stakeholders, parliamentarians and the United Nations, was joined this year by national civil society organisations active in regions experiencing emergencies. It met several times this year to monitor implementation of nutrition-related interventions and enhance advocacy in these regions. The decree that will create the National Food and Nutrition Council and establish its role, organisation and operation is yet to be enacted, but the draft provides for the creation of decentralised bodies within the platform.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Over the past year, the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy (PNSAN) has been developed and approved, supported by a national communication strategy for Behaviour Change Communications and by advocacy. The National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022 refers to the National Agricultural Investment Programme, food and nutrition security and a multi-sectoral strategic framework to combat malnutrition.

Aligning actions around common results

The Operational Plan to Combat Malnutrition in the Congo 2016-2018 comprises programmed and budgeted activities, monitoring and evaluation indicators, roles and responsibilities and a schedule of activities. Its implementation is, however, incomplete.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Monitoring financial commitments and disbursement of funds in support of interventions to improve nutrition is not taking place.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Development of the plan to build human resource capacity for better nutrition interventions;
- Conduct a diagnosis of the nutrition situation in the Republic of Congo;
- Hold a workshop to evaluate the execution of the operational plan to combat malnutrition;
- Development of a resource mobilisation strategy;
- Organisation of a donor roundtable.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

A decision-making committee and a technical committee for nutrition are both operational. To facilitate coordination, the multi-stakeholder platform was strengthened with the establishment of a parliamentarian network and a Business Network, which is under development. An institutional and organisational analysis of the territorial administration and local authority agencies has been conducted. The draft decree establishing regional nutrition committees has been disseminated. Holding the SUN Movement Global Gathering in Abidjan raised the profile of nutrition, helping make it a national priority for all stakeholders.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Policies, strategies and laws have been updated and a report on the strategic examination of zero hunger and its roadmap are available. Replacing a previous inter-ministerial order, a decree now makes it mandatory to enrich flour with iron and folic acid, oil with vitamin A, and salt with iodine. The multi-sectoral breastfeeding policy and plan are in the process of being validated. To facilitate implementation of the convergence strategy, an implementation guide for Community Nutrition Reinforcement Activity Centres (FRANC) has been developed and Operational Action Plans (PAO) created for stakeholders.

Aligning actions around common results

Refinement of indicators in the validated common results framework is under way and a multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (PNMN) has been created, to complement the mapping of nutrition interventions and stakeholders. An Annual Operational Plan for the north has been developed, validated and approved. A national nutrition information platform (NPIN) is under development. Finally, the State has committed to establishing a Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger, following a high-level visit from the Vice President of Brazil.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Nutrition forms part of the National Development Plan and relevant ministries’ Public Investment Programme (PIP). A $60 million multi-sectoral early year nutrition and development project has been set up, financed by a $50 million loan from the World Bank and a $10 million donation from Power of Nutrition. The State and technical and financial partners contribute to the funding of PNMN 2016-2020 and NPIN. PNMN is included in the Prime Ministerial budget. Mechanisms for monitoring and tracking allocations are included in global systems established by the State and are yet to be refined.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

• Establish an environment conducive to breastfeeding through the development of a policy, a communication plan, regulatory texts and a national monitoring committee;

• Ensure the decentralisation of the PNMN through existing regional committees, create an operational manual on the convergence strategy and implementation of the FRANCs.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Platform National Coordination Framework (CNPMN), under the direction of the SUN Movement Executive Secretariat (SUN-DRC), is operational and meets quarterly. The provincial multi-sectoral nutrition coordination framework has, so far, only been established in two of the 26 provinces. Stakeholders have aligned their actions to the 2017-2018 operational action plan. Activity monitoring is difficult, due to a lack of funding.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The stocktaking and analysis of existing policies and laws is an ongoing multi-sectoral consultative process. Dialogue and advocacy to strengthen nutrition are regularly undertaken with technical and financial partners, as well as political leaders. There are no national communication and advocacy strategies to support nutrition in place. Much effort is still needed to ensure the enforcement of existing legal frameworks, such as the International Code on the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and laws on the protection of maternity and parental leave. Their application will require good governance practices.

Aligning actions around common results

In 2017, the operational action plan was developed, based on the National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan. But this only includes nutrition-specific interventions. Harmonisation of the Common Results Framework and the National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan 2016-2020 is ongoing. The national nutrition surveillance, food security and early warning system informs the Government about food emergencies in all provinces. However, multi-sectoral collaboration in the fight against malnutrition remains a challenge.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

A cost estimate for actions set out in the National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan has been made by the Government, national stakeholders and United Nations agencies. The Government allocated a budget to SUN-DRC for 2015-2017 to execute activities in the SUN-RDC roadmap, but this funding was never disbursed. Advocacy is therefore being intensified to secure the disbursement of these Government funds and to optimise financing opportunities. Development partners need to collaborate further with the Government and align with the national plan to combat malnutrition.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Mobilisation of funds for nutrition-sensitive interventions as part of the National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan;
- Engagement of parliamentarians for legislative lobbying in support of nutrition;
- Development and implementation of multi-sectoral advocacy and communication strategies for nutrition.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Although the text formalising its existence is still under development, the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Platform (SAN) meets monthly. It has enabled its members to participate in the development, validation and planning of the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy (PNSAN), with representatives of academia joining for the first time. Furthermore, it has enabled collaboration on the development or implementation of projects, such as outdoor classes or dietary recommendations, and allowed for the discussion of challenges.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The legal and normative framework in support of food and nutrition security needs to be strengthened, and a large number of existing pieces of legislation need to be updated. A number of national guidelines and national bodies—such as on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes, infant and young child feeding, and parental leave—provide for their application in the fields of food security, consumption, public health and sanitation.

Aligning actions around common results

A general roadmap, developed following the 2015 situation review, serves as the Common Results Framework and feeds into annual roadmaps.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

In 2018, Gabon received technical assistance to develop its budget analysis capacity. This highlighted the lack of budget lines, sectoral action plans and the need for a monitoring mechanism to enable long-term investment in nutrition. One of the purposes of the multi-sectoral platform is to seek out funding, which is also the case for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) partnership, which is currently being set up in Gabon.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Formalise the multi-stakeholder platform;
- Unify the efforts of United Nations agencies through the REACH partnership;
- Lobby for the mobilisation of funds and scaling up implementation of the PNSAN;
- Design nutrition-related programmes;
- Expand awareness and nutrition-related actions at the decentralised level.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

**Bringing people together into a shared space for action**

The current National Nutrition Committee is chaired by the Vice President. The national Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) has expanded to include institutions such as: The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industries, for the business community; the University of The Gambia; the Association of Health Journalists and The Association of Non Governmental Organizations. They are working together to conduct the mid-term review of the National Nutrition Policy 2010-2020 and develop a new policy for 2018-2025. It is necessary to obtain financial reporting from all sectors to effectively track investment.

**Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework**

The National Assembly Committee is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Women, Youth and Children. The MSP members supported the development and review of the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan. There are efforts to develop a National Food Fortification Policy and promote relevant legislations. A costed strategic plan and business plan needs to be developed. It continues to be challenging to advocate for mainstreaming nutrition into other relevant policies and programmes.

**Aligning actions around common results**

There is no Common Results Framework, but the MSP has proposed that one should be developed now that the national nutrition policy has been finalised. Several surveys are currently being finalised in order to provide information on the progress of programme implementation.

**Financing tracking and resource mobilisation**

The Government has been steadily increasing allocations for nutrition over the reporting period, but these allocations are mainly for Personal Emoluments. Donors and partners are giving high levels of support to nutrition-related initiatives, but at the national level the country cannot clearly identify the extent of resource coverage in terms of programming. It is also difficult to identify gaps. Most donors who pledged to support nutrition interventions are disbursing funds regularly, and even though the Government’s commitments are minimal, it is honouring them to a certain extent.

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**2018–2019 PRIORITIES**

- Development of a Common Results Framework;
- Obtain financial reporting from all sectors to enable adequate tracking of investment in nutrition;
- Ensure the business sector is represented in the MSP;
- Incorporate nutrition into all relevant sectoral policies and programmes;
- Develop a costed strategic plan and business plan.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Multi-sectoral engagement continues, as the number of institutions actively participating in the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) structures increase, including the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Half of all regions have established MSPs. No Business Network has been established, but the private sector is increasingly involved in supporting nutrition-sensitive programmes. The First Lady, a high-level champion of nutrition, launched the Girls Iron Folate Tablet Supplementation Programme, targeting adolescent girls in Southern Ghana.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Substantial progress has been made: MSP stakeholders have contributed to the development of key national documents, such as the President’s Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP) and the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework, which include food and nutrition security priorities. Government initiatives, such as “Planting for Food and Jobs” and “One-District-One-Factory” have integrated nutrition to their strategic plans. A campaign coordinated by the Ghana Standards Authority resulted in Obaasima, a seal that certifies fortified food products.

Aligning actions around common results

The President will now present the CPESDP to Parliament, which includes updates on food and nutrition security alongside advice on policy operationalisation and district planning. Key national indicators captured in the National Development Results Framework are jointly monitored by all stakeholders, although key nutrition indicators are obtained from survey data only every three years. Although social audit capacity needs enhancing, multi-stakeholder-led evaluation reports are well distributed and regularly inform programming.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Costed estimations of nutrition-related actions exist in relevant sectors, but budget and expenditure tracking remains a challenge. The Ministry of Finance is coding all nutrition-relevant programme costs in order to track allocations and expenditures. A nutrition budget tracking exercise was carried out between February and May 2018, involving key stakeholders in numerous sectors. Priority government initiatives have received pledges from donors, and the Ministry of Finance will follow up to ensure they are actualised through its bilateral and debt management systems.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

• Create a database to improve monitoring of actions;
• Convene regular meetings, maintaining focal points from institutions and strengthen leadership;
• Intensify local-level coordination;
• Establish a SUN Business Network;
• Strengthen advocacy efforts by identifying champions and finalising communication strategies.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

In 2017-2018, the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) - the Technical Nutrition and Food Working Group - has occasionally met to continue its nutrition advocacy aimed at the Government and parliamentarians, communities and the private sector. MSP members have contributed to the review of the National Nutrition Policy, the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition and its budgeting, and jointly funded the SMART 2017 nutrition survey. Coordination is decentralised in 7 of the 8 regions of Guinea, and nutrition is included in many municipalities’ priorities.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The National Food and Nutrition Policy is being developed, drawing on many recently-developed laws in support of nutrition - such as the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and the Order on Food Fortification - operationalised by decentralised services. A National Community Health Policy was adopted in 2018, which focuses on primary healthcare and the prevention of chronic malnutrition, to ensure municipalities make nutrition one of their top priorities.

Aligning actions around common results

In addition to an evaluation, of the implementation of the 2014-2016 Multi-Sectoral Plan by different stakeholders, a 2016-2020 Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan is being finalised. This plan will provide costed actions and outline roles and responsibilities of the various partners (the UN, civil society, sectoral ministries) - with which partners’ action plans or annual workplans are aligned.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

A 2018 budget analysis has identified financial investments in nutrition-sensitive sectors within the National Development Budget and ensured the costing of the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan, which is currently being finalised.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Review the National Food and Nutrition Policy and the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan;
- Develop a communication plan and an advocacy plan for resource mobilisation;
- Review the mapping of nutrition-related stakeholders and interventions;
- Organise roundtables to validate the policy and ensure financing of the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan;
- Undertake a socio-anthropological study on the reasons behind adding water into the diets of infants (0-6 months).
### Guinea-Bissau

**Population:** 1.86 million  
**Joined:** March 2014

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#### Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Under 5 stunting (%)</th>
<th>Under 5 wasting (%)</th>
<th>Under 5 overweight (%)</th>
<th>0-5 months exclusive breastfeeding (%)</th>
<th>Anaemia in women 15-49 years (%)</th>
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#### 2018-2019 PRIORITIES

**SCALINGUPNUTRITION.ORG/GUINEA-BISSAU**

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**Bringing people together into a shared space for action**

- Engage newly-elected parliamentarians to increase advocacy efforts for nutrition; Government Focal Point; parliamentarians’ network; and multi-sectoral strategic plan; planning for multi-year funding will start in 2018-2019. It will be essential to establish multi-stakeholder platform. Liberia is in a recovery period primarily funded by external donors, with resources to support and facilitate nutrition interventions, highlighting its interest in supporting the sector.

**Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework**

- Foster alignment of nutrition with national targets. Significant effort works, and, as such, have planned reviews of policies across sectors remain fragmented. An updated National Nutrition Policy is currently being reviewed by line Ministers, and, as such, have planned reviews to the policy’s development. The country has now adopted fortification standards for flour, cooking oil and salt, and, as such, have planned reviews. While policies across sectors remain fragmented, the marketing of breast-milk substitutes is largely under the control of the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Education and Commerce – continued growth will be needed to ensure these actions are aligned. However, some nutrition-specific legislation has now been established in Liberia, which will be needed to ensure these actions are aligned. However, some nutrition-specific legislation has now been established in Liberia, which will be needed to ensure these actions are aligned.

**Aligning actions around common results**

- Fortification Alliance. Regulations for fortification of wheat flour have now been established in Liberia, which are yet to be established. Liberia has now adopted fortification standards for flour, cooking oil and salt, and, as such, have planned reviews to the policy’s development. The country has now adopted fortification standards for flour, cooking oil and salt, and, as such, have planned reviews to the policy’s development. The country has now adopted fortification standards for flour, cooking oil and salt, and, as such, have planned reviews to the policy’s development. The country has now adopted fortification standards for flour, cooking oil and salt, and, as such, have planned reviews to the policy’s development.

**Financing tracking and resource mobilisation**

- Develop and review a National Nutrition Policy with national targets. Significant effort works, and, as such, have planned reviews. While policies across sectors remain fragmented, the marketing of breast-milk substitutes is largely under the control of the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Education and Commerce – continued growth will be needed to ensure these actions are aligned. However, some nutrition-specific legislation has now been established in Liberia, which will be needed to ensure these actions are aligned. However, some nutrition-specific legislation has now been established in Liberia, which will be needed to ensure these actions are aligned.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

A Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) has now been established in Liberia, which provides structure for members to engage in regular meetings. While the MSP gradually expands, involving new line ministries – including the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Education and Commerce – continued growth will be required to ensure multi-sectoral scope. The UN Network for SUN and the SUN Civil Society Network are active in MSP meetings, although business and donor networks are yet to be established. Liberia has an interim SUN Focal Point, awaiting formal appointment by the Office of the President.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

An updated National Nutrition Policy is currently being reviewed by line Ministers, signalling an increased commitment to the multi-sectoral approach. The drafting process has involved more stakeholders than in the past, with the MSP contributing to the policy’s development. The country has now adopted fortification standards for flour, cooking oil and salt, with the establishment of the National Fortification Alliance. Regulations for the marketing of breast-milk substitutes are being developed, with parliamentarians and the Minister of Health currently reviewing the legislation.

Aligning actions around common results

While policies across sectors remain fragmented, stakeholders recognise the value of harmonising policy and legal frameworks, and, as such, have planned reviews of existing actions to ensure they correlate with national targets. Significant effort will be needed to ensure these actions are aligned. However, some nutrition-specific interventions have been scaled up, such as community-based infant and young child feeding counselling, which is now offered in 12 of 16 counties.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

At present, nutrition interventions are primarily funded by external donors, with limited domestic resources allocated to the sector. Liberia is in a recovery period following the Ebola outbreak, meaning that planning for multi-year funding will start in 2018-2019. It will be essential to increase advocacy efforts during this period so that nutrition interventions are allocated adequate financing. The Liberian Government provides human resources to support and facilitate nutrition interventions, highlighting its interest in supporting the sector.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Obtain approval to formally appoint the SUN Government Focal Point;
- Engage newly-elected parliamentarians to increase advocacy efforts for nutrition;
- Develop and review a National Nutrition Policy and multi-sectoral strategic plan;
- Continue facilitating the expansion and functionality of the established multi-stakeholder platform.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Nutrition Coordination Cell has been strengthened by officials. The Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Technical Committee (CTIN) is operational and has met four times. The National Nutrition Council has not yet met. New CTIN focal points and alternates have been appointed and will soon have training on their roles and responsibilities. Coordination bodies exist at both decentralised and local levels, and are clearly defined in the national nutrition policy. However operational capacity at decentralised and local levels remains low. Networks for the private sector and academic/have been created.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Several studies have taken stock of how nutrition is taken into account in different sectors. For example, there has been a strategic reflection on zero hunger, a study on the cost of hunger and the creation of country resilience priorities. A review of existing sectoral policies and programmes has identified gaps therein, suggesting how they could become nutrition-sensitive. The draft constitution now recognises that food and nutrition is a constitutional right. Lastly, regional coalitions have been set up to build capacities and several lobbying meetings have been held with parliamentarians.

Aligning actions around common results

The Nutrition Coordination Cell and each network have annual work plans that form part of the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (PAMN), which is considered to be the Common Results Framework. The mid-term review of November 2016 also ensures partners were aligned, although work still needs to be done to establish systems for monitoring and evaluation, accountability, knowledge management and capacity building for key actors at every level. A mechanism to do so will be implemented shortly, to support the new plan for 2019-2023.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

In 2017, the annual cost of funding the PAMN was USD 129,119,465, with 48 percent still available for mobilisation. Despite this, there is no budget tracking system to monitor the mobilisation and use of resources. A retrospective analysis of PAMN funding for 2014-2018 is currently ongoing, with budget analysis having identified available funding sources and achievements. In addition, the revitalisation of the donor network, supported by training of sectoral focal points and the meeting of Secretary Generals, are ideal levers to align financial resources and avoid duplication.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

• Conduct a final evaluation of the PAMN 2014-2018 and propose a new plan for 2019-2023;
• Leadership of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms;
• Development of monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms for the PAMN and leadership of sectoral nutrition groups to monitor the performance of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions;
• Organise a national nutrition forum between January and March 2019;
• Organise a round table to mobilise funding for the PAMN;
• Strengthen SUN network.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

<table>
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<td>42%</td>
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2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Ensure the signing of the revised decree for the National Nutrition Development Council;
- Create an inventory of existing interventions to help achieve common results and lay the foundations for multi-sectoral coordination;
- Strengthen the operation of multi-sectoral coordination frameworks at national and regional levels by introducing tools and systems for operations and reporting;
- Continue advocacy for nutrition.

SCALINGUPNUTRITION.ORG/MAURITANIA
Niger

Population: 21.48 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) remains informal but will be formalised by the end of 2018 with the formation of the Technical Committee, which will be mandated to manage, monitor and report on the National Nutritional Security Policy (PNSN) and its action plan. The PNSN will feed into discussions in meetings of the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Steering Committee and the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (CIO), chaired by the President and attended by the Prime Minister. The various networks need to be revitalised and strengthened, in terms of human and financial resources.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Some implementing regulations require review in order to be made operational. An order has existed since 1998 on the regulation of the marketing of breast-milk substitutes but was not applied. It has since become a Governmental decree. A communication and social mobilisation strategy for nutrition has been developed within the Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens (3N) initiative and the national strategy for infant and young child feeding has been revised. A national policy is pending Government adoption, and its multi-sectoral action plan will provide for the development of communication and advocacy plans and tools.

Aligning actions around common results

The PNSN and its action plan, which sets out the common framework for stakeholder responsibilities, is pending adoption, but most actions are being implemented. The action plan’s monitoring and evaluation framework is due to be finalised in 2019 and will enable reporting. A lack of common medium-term objectives and a clear specification make it impossible to synergise reflections, actions and advocacy from the various networks. A national nutrition information platform is in operation. It has conducted analyses of the nutrition situation and information systems, and also trained stakeholders.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Despite an evaluation of the funding of regular nutrition interventions, no analysis of sustainability, or of gaps nor effectiveness has been made. During the reporting period, certain strategies have been developed to mobilise extra resources: the integration of nutrition into the Economic and Social Development Plan, which was the subject of a resource mobilisation round table; integration of nutrition into programme budgets of State sectors, and a budgeted action plan for the PNSN. Finally, mechanisms to ensure a continuum between humanitarian and development funding are being considered.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Adoption of the PNSN and its action plan;
- Mobilisation of resources for implementation of the PNSN plan;
- Boost the SUN Multi-Stakeholder Platform, including establishment of a SUN Donor Network;
- Evaluate pilot interventions—for example in convergence municipalities, adolescent nutrition—for their possible scaling up.

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Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) convene at the national level on a quarterly basis, via the National Committee for Food and Nutrition (NCFN). They are established in every state via the State Committees. Multi-sectoral coordination is also achieved through the National Fortification Alliance and Nutrition in Emergency Working Group. Nutrition is afforded high profile support in Nigeria with the recent establishment in November 2017 of the National Council on Nutrition (NCN) inside the Office of the Vice President. The First Lady is also a nutrition advocate.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The establishment of the NCN followed the adoption in 2016 of a Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP), a health-centric policy coordinated by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning. The Government is committed to nutrition in many of its programmes. Linking agriculture, local business, education and nutrition, the Vice President launched Nigeria’s National Home Grown School Feeding Programme, which provides free school meals made from locally procured food from smallholder farmers. While food fortification has been mandatory since 2002, enforcement of this legislation must be improved.

Aligning actions around common results

All stakeholders have a common set of priorities derived from the FNSP, as well as the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition and the Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy. A multi-sectoral Common Results Framework—which is awaiting approval from the Federal Executive Council—was established, to outline stakeholder roles and responsibilities in carrying out activities. While multi-sectoral actors have an established system for collecting routine data, including drafting the NCFN progress reports quarterly, a platform for collecting data has not yet been established.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition at National and sub-National levels (NSPAN) has been finalised and costed. Investment in nutrition is not solid, but ministries, departments and agencies have dedicated nutrition budget lines and nutrition divisions do exist in most of them. The Civil Society Network (CS-SUNN) conducted a budget tracking exercise at the national level and in Kaduna, Nasarawa and Niger states. Advocacy from the CS-SUNN has led to increased nutrition financing in 3 states, but efforts must be sustained to increase domestic financing more broadly.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Advocate for additional nutrition resources via domestic financing, and improve resource tracking;
- Mobilise stakeholders to form an Academia and Research Network;
- Roll out the Partnership in Improving Nutrition Systems (PINS) project on improved results orientation;
- Roll out the NutriPitch programme, which provides entrepreneurs with access to financiers for nutrition-related business plan.
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The various actors have worked together to develop strategic plans in 2017-2018. A SUN Network for parliamentarians has been formed. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency has joined the UN Network for SUN’s platform, and the initiative for Food and Nutrition in Africa has been set up. At the local level, farmer organisations and local actors have worked together to operationalise the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSMN). Progress is limited by the failure to establish SUN Networks for academia and for the private sector, and infrequent meetings of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Strategic documents have been developed, such as: the PSMN, involving 12 sectoral plans; plans for monitoring and evaluation (PSE-PSMN) and communication of the PSMN; the draft decree on the marketing of food products intended for children; the strategic food and nutrition plan (PSAN); and the reports from joint in-depth analyses of the national context, overall policy development, particular evidence and lessons learned from implementation.

Aligning actions around common results

The Common Results Framework for the PSMN has been established by consensus. This clearly sets out objectives, budgets by strategic objective, areas of intervention, responsibilities and coordination, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at every level. These mechanisms will ensure joint monitoring, both centrally and locally, and are intended to ensure stakeholder accountability. The PSMN also provides a capacity-building plan for the sectors responsible for implementation. Major challenges remain, including the availability of conclusive evidence on very prevalent issues, such as anaemia.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

A study of PSMN financing is ongoing and the budgets of the 12 sectoral nutrition action plans have been classified using the nomenclature of the Multi-Annual Spending Programming Document, adopted by the national Government. A resource mobilisation plan and budget monitoring systems by sectors and other stakeholders will be developed after the PSMN financing study is finalised. The next step will be to secure funding pledges. This will also enable an evaluation of the amount of funds available in the national budget, through the budget line dedicated to nutrition.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Finalise the PSMN financing study;
- Hold a PSMN financing donor conference;
- Operationalise the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Communication Plan for the PSMN;
- Scale up nutrition-specific interventions;
- Support the implementation of sectoral action plans.
Sierra Leone

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) exist at national and district levels. From 23 to 25 November 2017, a National Nutrition Fair was held, bringing together all stakeholder groups including local councils and traditional leaders. This highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration. An updated multi-sectoral nutrition overview was completed in October 2017 and will feed into a review of the National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan (NFNSIP). The UN Network for SUN/REACH supports stakeholder and action mapping, while the SUN Business Network gained additional members.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The NFNSIP 2018-2022 will be finalised in late 2018. Launched in October 2017, the Policy and Plan Overview is an effort to ascertain the extent to which the country’s legal, policy, strategy and planning frameworks reflect nutrition targets. Parliamentarian awareness has been raised on nutrition issues, which has resulted in the signing of a declaration of commitment to food and nutrition security. Ahead of the elections, food and nutrition was included in manifestos of 14 political parties as priority for national development. Food-Based Dietary Guidelines have been finalised and the Food Safety Bill has been endorsed.

Aligning actions around common results

The revised NFNSIP will serve as the new Common Results Framework and clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of each sector. The UN Development Assistance Framework is aligned to the NFNSIP, fitting with the Government’s ‘New Direction’ policies. A comprehensive list of core nutrition actions (CNAs) was agreed upon. The Vice-President recommends that an intra-ministerial committee should precede meetings of the Food and Nutrition Steering Committee. Annual nutrition action plans need to be mainstreamed at district level and implemented by involving District Planning Officers.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The Government committed to increasing its overall financial allocation to nutrition and to also create budget lines for nutrition in other line ministries. Going forward, significant technical and financial resources will be required from the Government, donors and UN agencies: there should be effective coordination in this regard. The Government should identify clear priority areas and actions to tackle constraints and access opportunities. The annual budget tracking report for government expenditure on nutrition explored the extent to which commitments have been upheld.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Finalise the National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan (NFNSIP) 2018-2022;
- Support awareness-raising of nutrition issues for newly elected political leaders;
- Organise the annual National Nutrition Fair;
- Establish a SUN Parliamentary Network;
- Identify Nutrition Champions.

SCALINGUPNUTRITION.ORG/SIERRA-LEONE
Togo
Joined: March 2014
Population: 7.80 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
A task force has been set up by decree within the Ministry of Planning and Development to coordinate the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP). This demonstrates general recognition of the importance of having a multi-sectoral policy and of planning for nutrition within a Common Results Framework. Nutrition was integrated into the new National Development Plan 2017-2022 (NDP). The focal points designated by various sectors and partners do not meet regularly, due to lack of funding. The UN Network for SUN and the SUN Business Network work relatively well.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
All stakeholders took part in processes to validate of the National Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security Programme, the development of the 2017-2022 NDP, and the Strategic Communication Plan to Combat Malnutrition and Malaria. A national nutrition policy has just been adopted and will be multi-sectoral, unlike its predecessor. Analysis of the nutrition situation and evaluation of the previous National Strategic Food and Nutrition Plan 2012-2015 have allowed for the definition of overall outline of the new multi-sectoral strategic nutrition plan.

Aligning actions around common results
The Common Results Framework will be developed this year. The various relevant sectors and stakeholders have been consulted and involved in various reviews and analyses since October 2017. They have also been involved in the mapping of stakeholders and actions in the field of nutrition, with a view to facilitating alignment of their actions and reducing any identified gaps. A mapping of stakeholders, actions and nutrition gaps in terms of gender equality has also been conducted.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
In April 2017, a budget analysis exercise was conducted with technical assistance from a consultant in order to define budget allocations for interventions that contributed to nutrition. Sectoral ministries do not yet have dedicated nutrition-related budget lines. External allocations, however, including from partners, are included in the ministries’ annual action plans, although these allocations are not always made on time.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES
• Accelerate the process that will establish the multi-stakeholder platform;
• Finalise and validate the new multi-sectoral strategic nutrition policy and plan;
• Develop a Common Results Framework.
Togo

Joined: March 2014
Population: 7.80 million

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Under-five overweight (%)</th>
<th>Under-five wasting (%)</th>
<th>Under-five stunting (%)</th>
<th>0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%)</th>
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<td>3%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anaemia in women 15-49 years (%): 48.9

Under-five overweight (%): 1.5

Under-five wasting (%): 5.7

Under-five stunting (%): 23.8

0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding (%): 65.4

Adolescent overweight/obesity (%): Male 6.0, Female 23.9

Adult overweight (%): Male 4.0, Female 13.1

Adult diabetes (%): Male 7.3, Female 7.0

Adult obesity (%): Male 16.4, Female 23.9

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

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