Burundi Join: February 2013
Population: 10.86 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
The multi-stakeholder platform has met regularly throughout this reporting period. The thematic groups that make up the High-Level Steering Committee are operational and dynamic, despite financial constraints and gaps in coordination. The process of decentralising the platform that supports planning and action at the local level has been extended to province and commune levels. Work on formalising the parliamentary network for strengthening nutrition is advanced, but the journalist network is yet to be established. The United Nations network seeks to include UNFPA and UN Women.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
National normative planning documents (Vision 2025, National Development Plan) include nutrition indicators. There is a national food fortification strategy and a national advocacy and communication strategy. A process for revising the law on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes has begun. However, operationalisation of the legislation is difficult. The terms of reference for the review of the multi-sectoral food security and nutrition strategic plan (PSMSAN) are being developed. The results of this review will be used to inform the design of the second generation of the strategic plan.

Aligning actions around common results
All stakeholders have currently agreed on the multi-sectoral interventions needed to effectively combat malnutrition, despite a lack of detailed annual workplans in the various networks. The existence of PSMSAN 2014-2017 (extended into 2018) defines common implementation goals and its review will allow for lessons learned to inform the design of PSMSAN II. However, without a nutrition-specific information system or communication plan, it is difficult to monitor and measure progress, despite the identification of gaps through intervention mapping.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
Burundi has seen a slight increase in financial resources for nutrition despite a challenging socio-political context. The National Development Plan includes food security and nutrition, the costing of which is being finalised. Allocations for nutrition-sensitive activities are available at the sectoral level and the Burundian Government produces a monitoring report on the disbursements of funds targeted at these interventions. However, information from social and financial audits is not publicly available and so it is difficult to learn from this. Advocacy continues for the addition of a nutrition budget line.

2018-2019 PRIORITIES

- Development of a costed PSMSAN II;
- Establishment of an integrated communication and advocacy plan;
- Operationalise a mechanism for mobilisation, coordination and monitoring of financial resources and communication;
- Development of a nutrition education strategy;
- Appoint nutrition champions;
- Establish a UN Network, media network and formalise the parliamentary network;
- Create a strategy for domestic and external resource mobilisation.

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