Ghana

Joined: March 2011
Population: 28.83 million

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 Obasima, 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.