Guatemala

Joined: December 2010
Population: 16.91 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

In Guatemala, nutrition is a priority, which also rings true for sectors in the National Food and Nutritional Security System (SINASAN). Local participation varies between towns, and coordination amongst them works well - led by municipal authorities - where compliance with strategic plans is monitored and inter-institutional coordination is strengthened. Sharing of experiences, where possible, for replication in other towns needs scaling up. Also, the internal coordination must be strengthened to be effective locally, and spaces for coordination should be boosted.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

One of the main achievements in the reporting period was the approval of the Law on School Feeding. Government institutions and the private sector have created breastfeeding-friendly spaces. The response plan for seasonal hunger has been approved in 2018. Other areas high on the political agenda includes: food labelling, food donations, family farming and water bills, and a reform of the Law on the National Food and Nutritional Security System. Monitoring of the legal framework must be strengthened, alongside multi-sectoral analysis.

Aligning actions around common results

The food and nutritional security policy, law and regulations promote and form the common results framework (CRF) in Guatemala. Results management is crucial for implementing public sector actions. Based on the evaluation of programmes and capacity for implementan, there is insufficient progress in monitoring policies and the legal framework, in general, in terms of food security and nutrition. Developing measurement standards for evaluations remains a challenge. Other challenges include setting up a CRF and a lacking permanent monitoring system.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

There are attempts to mobilise resources in Guatemala - using loans approved by Congress to implement policies, programmes, projects and strategies aimed at improving nutrition. Although financial gaps have been identified, the national budget has not been approved, leaving programmes underfunded. This makes it difficult to coordinate interventions and ensure they reach the most vulnerable areas.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Better integrate the multi-stakeholder platform and promote alignment with SINASAN;
- Organise a high-level event on nutrition on the margins of the Ibero-American Summit in November 2018;
- Assess the design of the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy;
- Include food security and nutrition in presidential campaigns;
- Increase high-level political commitment to nutrition and leveraging the visit of the SUN Movement Coordinator.

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