Lesotho

Joined: July 2014
Population: 2.23 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action
The multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) operates through the Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (FNCO), but its terms of reference have not yet been developed. There are SUN Networks established for business, research and academia, media, civil society and the UN, however the UN Network is the only one that is fully functional. Planning is ongoing for a high-level nutrition forum, to be held in October 2018.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
During the reporting period, Lesotho has seen progress in ensuring that policies and legal frameworks are coherent, but it is not yet possible to operationalise or enforce many. Legislation on food fortification, as set out in the nutrition policy, is underway, including bio-fortified beans. A social and behaviour change communication strategy for nutrition has been developed, with assistance from UNICEF. This includes a plan for implementation.

Aligning actions around common results
Nutrition has been included in the National Strategic Development Plan for 2017-2018 to 2021-2022, for the first time. The Lesotho nutrition strategy has also been developed and will be costed in the near future. The FNCO has engaged experts from multiple sectors at both national district levels to conduct a Zero Hunger strategic review, using a consultative process. The Zero Hunger strategic review and the national nutrition strategy will help facilitate a focused Common Results Framework for the National Nutrition Plan, as well as aligned programming.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation
There were no reported changes in 2017-2018.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Ensure all SUN Networks are fully functional;
- Operationalise the social and behaviour change communication strategy for nutrition;
- Operationalise policy and legal frameworks in order scale up nutrition at the national and sub-national level;
- Improve financial tracking and scale up resource mobilisation.